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Fire engine from 'the Blitz' returning in blaze of glory

By George Welch

AN historic Witney fire engine that played its part during 'the Blitz' nearly 80 years ago is to be restored to its former glory.

The 1936 Leyland Cub, bought by Witney Fire Brigade in 1937, gave three decades of service to fire crews.

Now a trust has been set up to restore the vehicle as a community asset.

The Leyland, which was proudly on display at Witney's St George's parade on Sunday, served the town until 1966 when the town's fire station moved to its current home in Welch Way.

The unique fire engine helped in the battle against the Nazis during the Second World War when it was deployed to the heavily-bombed cities of Coventry and Bristol.

"It was well known within the town," said Michael Brooker, chairman of the Witney Fire Brigade Heritage Trust, which has been set up to raise funds and awareness for the Leyland restoration.

"It's unique. There are very few vehicles of that era around. It's 81 years old now and it's been part of the station for a long time – it's a community asset."

During the 1970s, the vehicle was restored and became a popular attraction at fetes and carnivals.

The Leyland then went on show at the Oxfordshire Bus Museum in Long Hanborough before disappearing off the radar in the early 2000s.

It was re-discovered in April 2015 and the Witney Fire Brigade Heritage Trust, which is in the process of requesting charitable status, is urging the community to back their efforts to restore it to its former glory.

Michael Brooker is leading the campaign to restore the 1936 Leyland Cub. Inset, an early picture of the fire engine and its crew

But the rebuilding process isn't cheap, especially after somebody borrowed the Leyland from the bus museum for an event without the permission of any of the three designated drivers.

Unaware of the complicated mechanical issues, the unknown driver caused the engine to seize on the A34 and the Cub had to be recovered to Didcot fire station before eventually finding refuge in a barn at Hook Norton.

Mr Brooker, who has served for nearly 18 years in the fire service, added: "It was forgotten about for a good few years. I was upset by its condition because I saw it in its former glory.

"After its engine seized up it was out of site so it became out of mind as well. To get it back here was such a nice feeling. It's a Witney appliance and it's classed as being back home now."

The Leyland returned home last month. The trust, made up of four current and one former firemen as trustees, appealed for an initial £415 to get the repairs under way.

Around £4,000 has been raised so far and the appeal benefited from the town's Cub Scout group, which chose it for its St George's Day fundraising.

Witney MP Robert Courts, who attended Sunday's parade, said: "I enjoyed seeing the Leyland Cub fire engine, which is an evocative part of Witney's history.

"I look forward to seeing it restored to its former glory and hope that lots of people will be able to help in its refurbishment to ensure it becomes as much a community asset for skills and heritage teaching in the future, as it was for our town's safety."

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Using trains 'could take 2,000 lorries off the A34'

By Adam Flinn

Lorries overtake on the A34. There have been several fatal accidents involving HGVs in recent years

MORE than 2,000 large lorries a day could be taken off the northbound A34 if more effort was made to transport freight by rail.

A report published by the Campaign for Better Transport found the railways could reduce road congestion on some of the country's busiest trunk roads.

At present there is an average daily flow of 4,800 five and six-axle articulated lorries from Southampton making its way north on the M3 and A34 past north Hampshire.

But the report found this could be dramatically reduced to around 2,200 if rail lines were upgraded and more goods transported by train.

Spokeswoman for the campaign, Philippa Edmunds, said: "This research confirms what we have long argued, that integrated rail and road planning is the best way to reduce road congestion, collisions and pollution.

"It shows that on certain strategic transport corridors it is possible to improve road conditions without needing to add more road capacity.

"Transferring freight from road to rail would bring serious additional benefits not quantified in this report – improved road safety and reduced air pollution and carbon emissions – and these should also be considered."

Restrictions on lorries have previously been called for on the A34.

These include preventing them from overtaking along the entirety of the A34 and reducing the speed limit to 50mph.

Campaign for Better Transport is calling on the Government to take this latest research on board when considering future investment.

The Department for Transport said: "We agree that rail freight offers real benefits for the environment and helps keeps bulky loads off the road network, helping to ease congestion for other motorists.

"We look forward to using these findings to help inform our coming road and rail strategies and are committed to working with the rail freight industry to support growth of the sector."

News Bites

Smoking ban

OXFORD: A voluntary smoking ban has been rolled out across 80 children's play areas in the hope it will reduce second hand smoke exposure.

Following a three-month trial at Cutteslowe Park, Florence Park and Sandfield Road, 71 per cent of people surveyed agreed the ban improved the play experience.

Almost 90 per cent would like to see a permanent ban.

Signs explaining the voluntary ban were installed over the last two weeks.

It is hoped it will be enough to encourage people to leave the play area before smoking.

Ian Brooke, head of community services, said: "The trial was well received and we have now extended it across the city council's 80 play areas.

"Second hand smoke can have a serious impact on health and we want to make sure that children do not suffer from this in our facilities."

Village is the star

OXON: Villages are being urged to enter a new TV competition.

Channel 4 series, Village of the Year is being filmed by presenter Penelope Keith.

A team of judges will visit villages across the UK, with a £10,000 top prize for the winner.

Apply at villageoftheyear.co.uk via email at voty@reeftv.com.

The closing date for applications is midnight on May 14.

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BMW workers strike again in pensions row

BMW employees have gone on strike for the second time in the fight over proposed changes to their pension scheme.

Workers at Cowley walked out for 24 hours on Sunday.

Further strikes are planned for May 16, 18 and 21.

Unite assistant general secretary for manufacturing Tony Burke said: "The solidly supported strike should serve as a wake-up call to BMW's bosses and underlines the determination of members to defend their hard earned pensions.

"BMW workers are deeply alarmed by the company's plans, which could see some of them lose up to £160,000 in retirement income.

"BMW bosses need to get their heads out of the sand and recognise this is no way to treat a workforce."

A spokesperson for the company previously said: "BMW has always prided itself in providing excellent pensions for its staff and wants to act now to protect future pension provision."

BMW's Mini plant at Cowley

Latest figures showed a surge in BMW Group's net profit of eight per cent to €6.9 billion, as well as a record year for Mini sales and a six per cent rise in Roll-Royce sales.

A 24-hour strike on April 19 kicked off the series of protests. It was the first of eight strikes planned for four of BMW's UK plants, including Cowley, Hams Hall in the West Midlands and Swindon.

Boost for student volunteers' 'life-changing' visit to Kenya

By Eva Astreinidou

A COLLEGE that is pooling money for a 'life-changing' volunteering adventure to Kenya to help build a new school and coach pupils has been given a generous boost of £500.

Seven students and two staff members from Abingdon & Witney College have joined forces with humanitarian support provider African Adventures and are planning an expedition to Nakuru in July.

The group have been fundraising over the past few months to generate money towards their trip.

They will be helping to complete a school for 300 students and will be involved with projects such as sports coaching.

On April 19, members of the Witney Rotary Club helped them get that much closer to their goal, with Richard Smith, Brian Wright and Keith Crawford generously presenting the College with a cheque.

The Rotary Club works locally and internationally to support charities, fundraising events, community projects, and youth activities and provide many other important contributions to help those in need.

The college's principal, Di Batchelor, said: "We'd like to extend a warm thank you to the Witney Rotary Club on behalf of those involved with the volunteering trip at the college.

From left, Richard Smith, Brian Wright, Keith Crawford, Di Batchelor and Kenya trip organiser Mickey Day

"Every pound raised is a step closer to the students having an opportunity for a life-changing adventure, but more importantly it's a step closer in helping to make a difference for those children who need it most in Kenya."

A staff skydive is also on the books to generate more fundraising. A date for the daring jump will be announced soon.

Frankie Russ, of African Adventures, said: "We are so excited that Abingdon & Witney College has chosen to embark on an African Adventure. The group have an incredible journey ahead.

"Students who take part in college expeditions like this are really opening their eyes to the wider world.

"Not only will they have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a different culture and way of life, but we are confident they will grow as individuals, learn to work together as a team and develop skills that simply cannot be learnt inside the classroom."

African Adventures coordinates volunteering experiences in Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar with their locally run and led partner projects.

It also provides humanitarian, financial and developmental support to 21 educational partner projects through the provision of schooling and food.

To donate, visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/MickeyDay.

News Bites

Driver 'critical'

WITNEY: A woman is still critically ill nearly two weeks after a serious three-vehicle crash.

Police issued a new appeal on Monday for witnesses to come forward.

Just before 9pm on April 14, a Volkswagen Golf, a Citroen C3 and a Ford Fiesta were involved in a series of collisions in Main Road, Curbridge.

The driver of the Fiesta, a 49-year-old local woman, sustained serious injuries and is receiving treatment at the John Radcliffe hospital.

Glorious food

WITNEY: Celebrate wonderful local food at a market with 70 stalls from within 30 miles of Witney on May 20.

It will showcase artisan and local produce from 9.30am.

Bruce Young of Shaken Oak Products will open proceedings at 10am.

The cafe, bar and a range of foodie pop-ups will be open all day until 5pm to fuel the festival spirit and live performances will keep the crowds entertained.

Joust good fun

BLENHEIM: A spring jousting tournament featuring the Knights of Royal England will take place this weekend on the palace's south lawn.

There will also be falconry displays, archery, puppet shows, jesters and knights for families to enjoy.

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Put £15,000 in the kitty to help care for baby animals

By Eva Astreinidou

AN animal rehoming charity is looking to raise £15,000 after an influx of newborn kittens, foals and rabbits.

Blue Cross Burford is providing round-the-clock care for a number of baby animals who have arrived in recent weeks.

A 'Burford Babies' appeal has now been set up to help cover the costs of bringing up the youngsters.

The appeal, launched just before Easter, has so far raised over £2,500. It will continue for eight months.

Jenna Martyn, Blue Cross Burford rehoming centre manager, said: "Last year we helped 1,700 animals and spent £100,000 on vet bills, but this year we've a lot of extra mouths to feed, take care of and prepare to go back out into the world with a new owner.

"Many of the babies born on site will need to be with us for a period of time before they are old enough and ready to be put forward for rehoming.

"They'll also need neutering, vaccinations and microchipping and the mums will also need after care. The costs all add up."

Tatty the stray kitten had to be bottle fed through the night when it first arrived at the Blue Cross Centre Picture: Blue Cross

She added: "Our estimated costs to look after all these youngsters is £15,000. Any donations over and above the cost of care and treatment will go towards out work helping the hundreds of sick and homeless pets who come in to us."

Among the new arrivals are five kittens born last week to young cat Jinx, who came in to the centre heavily pregnant.

And seven baby bunnies were born to Shirley a week after the rabbit arrived at the centre.

Caring for them could add up to around £1,000 including the costs of neutering, worming and microchipping and any veterinary costs.

Round-the-clock care is also being given to a number of pregnant mares, four of which are due to give birth at any moment.

Five foals have recently been born on site. Staff lost a foal born earlier in the month despite staying up through the night to nurse the youngster.

Foals will typically cost Blue Cross around £1,600 each to raise and it can take up to eight months until they are ready to be rehomed.

One foal, Daiquiri, is in need of regular vet and farrier visits to help treat the two-week-old for a condition called contracted tendons.

The centre is also temporarily homing a tiny stray kitten called Tatty, who was rescued from behind the wall of a hotel and has to be bottle-fed regularly through the night.

It is now kitten season and more are coming in. Blue Cross said: "The extra mouths have an impact on our resources.

"Funds raised by the Burford Babies appeal will help us to cover the cost of raising the newborns over the coming weeks and months."

To donate, visit: https://tinyurl.com/kf983tb

Body found in wood 'not suspicious' say police

A WOODED area in Didcot was cordoned off after a body was found by a member of the public.

Emergency services were called to land just off Slade Road on Tuesday morning.

Police spokesperson James Williams said: "At 7.40am we had reports that a body had been found by a member of the public.

"A man was pronounced dead at the scene. The death is not suspicious and a file will be prepared for the coroner."

The wooded area, located opposite the junction with Slade Road, was cordoned off until shortly after 12.30pm on Tuesday.

Carys Polley, of Barleyfields, the adjoining road, saw police and an ambulance when she arrived for work that morning.

She said the operation was in full flow.

She added: "I expected to see a car in the hedge, but I saw nothing like that."

A nearby resident said the police had cordoned off the area early on in the morning.

He said he was told by police there had been an incident but that the officers were rather 'zip-lipped' about it.

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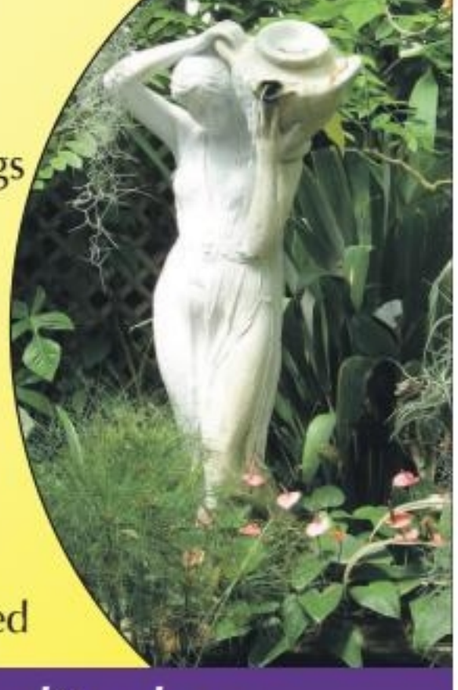

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BBC Countryfile presenters pose next to a 16ft haystack at Blenheim Palace, from left, Anita Rani, Ellie Harrison, John Craven, Adam Henson, Matt Baker and Tom Heap

Celebrate best of rural Britain at Countryfile Live

By George Welch

THE nation's favourite countryside programme is to return to Oxfordshire's picture-perfect scenery for the second edition of BBC's Countryfile Live.

The best of rural Britain was matched with the stunning backdrop of Blenheim Palace as BBC Countryfile held its first live event last August.

After the success of the inaugural Countryfile Live 2016, which saw 125,000 people flock to the 100 acre site, the second helping of the summer's most action-packed countryside day out is eagerly anticipated.

The outdoor event, sparked by the huge popularity of BBC One's rural magazine series, will see all the Countryfile presenters return to the picturesque grounds of Blenheim Palace from August 3 to 6.

Exciting new attractions for 2017 include four days of live arena shows, hands-on activities, animal displays, debates, food, drink and shopping from over 500 independent retailers and lifestyle brands.

Jamie Blandford, the 12th Duke of Marlborough, said: "Following the success of last year I am honoured and thrilled to welcome Countryfile Live back to the historic setting of Blenheim for its second year.

"The 2017 event is going to be a fantastic occasion hosting fans of the show, locals, wildlife enthusiasts and families from all around the UK – all of whom I am confident will truly enjoy the experience of this special event in the spectacular historic grounds."

David Loudon, chief executive of sponsors Quilter Cheviot, said: "Once again we are thrilled to be part of this festival which celebrates all aspects of our rural landscape with Countryfile Live offering something for the whole family.

"Britain boasts some of the most beautiful scenery in the world and we are proud to support an event which highlights the importance of agriculture and the countryside to our economy."

Full show information and tickets are available now from countryfilelive.com.

Suspended jail terms for pair who avoided paying council tax

TWO men have received suspended prison sentences for failing to pay council tax.

Saleem Akram, of The Avenue, Kennington, was hit with a 17-week suspended sentence after he failed to pay more than £6,800 in council tax arrears to the Vale of White Horse District Council between 2012 and 2015.

Akram, whose sentence was suspended on the condition that he pays £200 per month towards his arrears, failed to pay his tax for three years despite repeated debt recovery and bailiff warnings.

Leader of the Vale, Cllr Matthew Barber, said: "Council tax ensures everyone pays their fair share for our public services.

"This sentence sends out a very clear message – if you deliberately fail to pay your share then you will face serious consequences."

In a separate case, a Didcot man was handed a suspended prison sentence of 90 days for failing to pay his council tax arrears over an 11-year period.

Andrew Spiers, of Kynaston Road, was found by magistrates to have culpably neglected to pay more than £16,000 in council tax arrears owed to South Oxfordshire District Council between 2005 and 2016.

He received his suspended sentence of 90 days, providing he pays the agreed £200 per month towards his council tax arrears.

Spiers had a history of non-payment despite repeated debt recovery and bailiff action, the council said.

Cllr Jane Murphy, deputy leader of SODC, said: "If someone fails to pay then they are effectively stealing from everyone else who contributes their fair share and we will not hesitate to take action against anyone who we believe is taking advantage in this way."

Akram and Spiers appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court on March 21.

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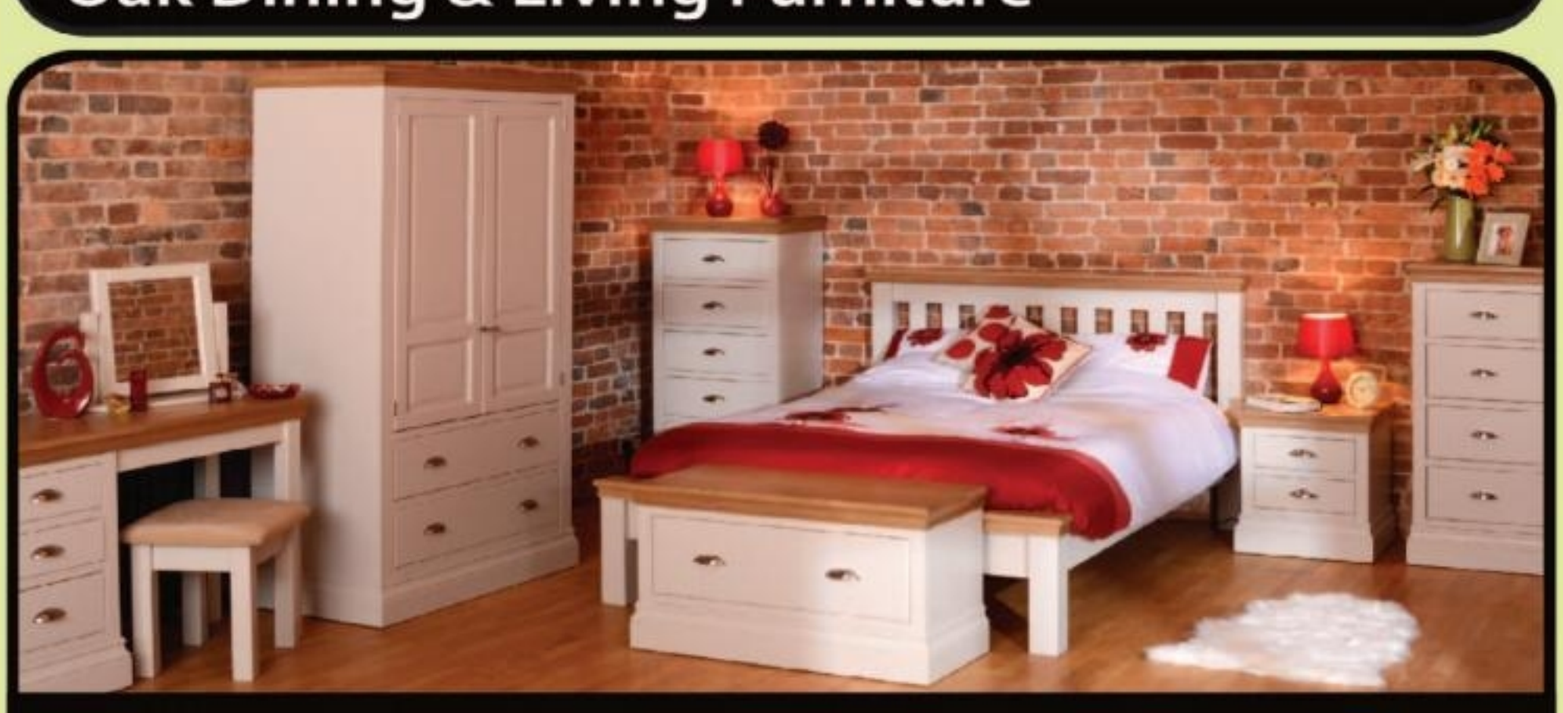

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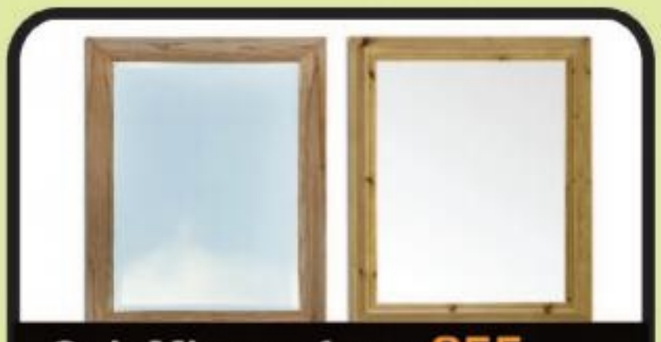

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Oxfordshire marathon runners share their London experience

By Eva Astreinidou

ONE of the world's most popular marathons took place on Sunday, and Oxfordshire runners were among the thousands who displayed heroic efforts on the big day.

Despite ups and downs on the route to the finish, runners from Didcot, Oxford, Witney and Wantage raised over £18,000 for their designated charities.

EILEEN NAUGHTON was competing in her 10th London marathon and was touched by one particular event on the day.

She said: "The most amazing thing happened.

"A parent of a child receiving cancer treatment spotted her child's name on the back of my running vest. I had hand sewn all the names onto my vest as a way of having them with me.

She was so overjoyed with me just finishing the marathon. We had a hug and a few tears together."

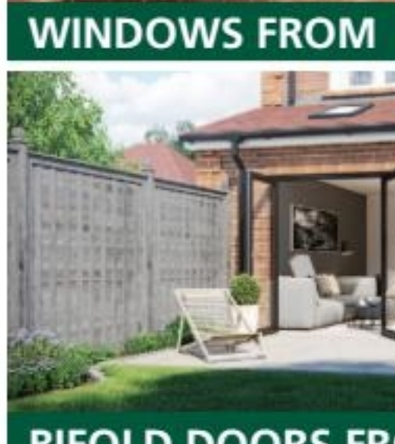
To donate, go to justgiving.com/tenmarathons.

LAURA THOMAS from Witney admitted she enjoyed the first 20 miles, but added: "The last six miles, however, were a mixture of great and painful.

"Between miles 22 and 24 I was exhausted and in a lot of pain. I slowed down to a walk, but the crowds really cheered me on and I managed to get back to running by mile 24.

"I set myself a target of raising £2,500 for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and am almost there."

To donate to Laura, go to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LauraThomas22.



Laura Thomas took 4:52

Simon Stone

SIMON STONE from Wantage wasn't put off by sustaining an injury just over half way round.

He said: "The atmosphere was amazing, I injured my knee around the 14 mile mark so was in pain from then onwards, so I didn't hit my personal goals.

"But looking back I am so glad of my achievement."

Simon was running to help Wantage Counselling and Training Centre, an organisation which helped him through some mental health issues. To donate, go to tinyurl.com/me2jspy

JAMES GESNER from Oxford admitted that Sunday was not a great running day for him, saying: "It was really enjoyable but sometimes you have good running days and other days are not so good."

While he may have found it a hard physical challenge this time, he was delighted with the amount raised for his two causes – Footsteps Foundation and AMMF.

He said: "My personal target was to raise as much as I could but I have raised over £12,000 which is unbelievable."

To donate to James, go to tinyurl.com/kcg2dez.

Eileen Naughton with her London Marathon medal - she ran it in 3:38

James Gesner took 4:56

Still time to sign up for Race for Life

OXFORDSHIRE women motivated by the London Marathon can take part in their own challenge by joining the upcoming Race for Life and helping to 'beat cancer with every step'.

Women inspired by the heroic efforts of participants in Sunday's event can enter Cancer Research UK's Race for Life on June 10 at University Park in Oxford, which welcomes all ages and abilities to take part.

Kelly Rumble, Cancer Research UK's event manager in Oxford, said: "Many of us watch the Virgin Money London Marathon on TV and feel hugely motivated by the inspirational stories and unstoppable spirit of the participants.

"This year, we're encouraging women to harness that fighting spirit and take on their own fitness challenge by signing up to Race for Life.

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life is a women-only series of 5k, 10k, Pretty Muddy, marathon and hiking events which raises money to fund research.

One in two people in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer at some stage in their lives, although survival rates have doubled since the early 1970s.

To enter Race for Life, visit raceforlife.org, or call 0300 123 0770.

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Chance to become a film star

HAVE you ever fancied yourself as a film star? Well now's your chance for your shot at the big time.

People from Oxfordshire can audition as extras for a film depicting political resistance in 19th century Britain.

Director Mike Leigh's forthcoming drama about the infamous 1819 Peterloo Massacre is to be filmed in Oxford for a few days in May – and extras will receive a minimum pay packet of £110 per filming day.

Piece of Cake Casting said they are urgently looking for men and women aged 17 to 99 years, of all ethnicities with natural coloured hair and no visible tattoos or piercings.

The Peterloo Massacre killed an estimated 18 protesters and injured a further 700 when government troops – including local yeomanry – charged a crowd of around 60,000 people gathered in St Peter's Field in Manchester to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

Details on casting have not yet been released.

To be considered you must register as an artiste online at pieceofcakecasting.com/become-an-artiste.

Force is with the thousands as Darth Vader visits Oxford

By Eva Astreinidou

Top left, Darth Vader actor David Prowse. Bottom left, a child dressed as Predator. Right, the Raven family in their costumes

MORE than 2,000 super heroes, villains, and comic book fans descended on Oxford for this year's Comic Con.

Gotham's The Joker, Harlequinn from Suicide Squad, and Star Wars' Darth Vader were among the many who came out to celebrate their favourite comic books, anime, and sci fi films at the Examination Schools in Oxford city centre over the weekend.

Fans gathered for the second Oxford Comic Con from all over the country dressed up to pay tribute to their favourite characters, attend talks, and speak to celebrity guests.

David Prowse MBE, the man beneath the Darth Vader costume in the original Star Wars trilogy, said: "It's great here. Everyone knows what Star Wars is, and I'm proud of the fact I was in it."

He added: "The job for Darth Vader came out of the blue really. I was a bit concerned about my West Country accent but luckily I just did the physical part."

A couple from Oxford came along with their 16-month-old son who has managed to fit in seven comic cons already.

Dressed as the Joker, Enrico Taylor said he met his wife, Leanne, at a comic con, and proposed to her at the same event in London.

A full-time security officer, Enrico has cross-played as the Joker in his spare time for a year now and has done shows portraying the character on stage.

He said: "I would love to go [to Comic Cons in America] but I am not legally allowed to rob a bank you see.

"If you take away the murderous side of the Joker, what you have got is a very fun character, and that is why I dress as him."

Paul, who came dressed as Rorschach, a character from comic book Watchmen, also had the Joker accompanying him.

His son, Callum, chose to dress as the Batman's nemesis because he saw photos of Jared Leto, the latest actor to portray the character, and thought he looked "crazy".

Fans could also purchase an array of memorabilia, including quirky gadgets, fan art of their favourite super heroes, and masks and head gear.

Body art make up artists were also there to transform volunteers into fantastical characters.

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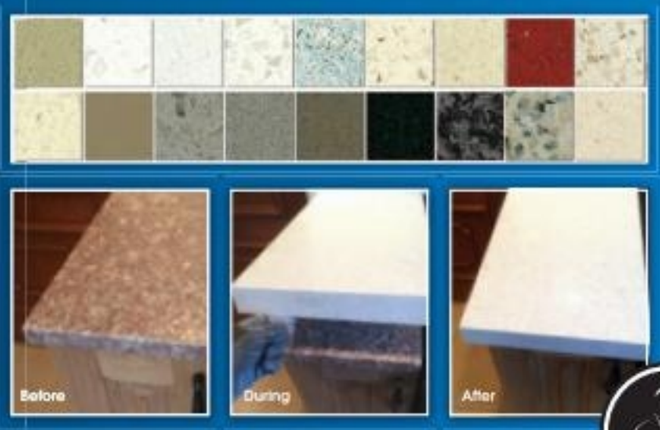

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First-choice primary for 94% of kids

ALMOST 94 per cent of Oxfordshire children have been offered a place at their first-choice primary school.

That is up from 91.51 per cent in 2016 and 88.04 per cent in 2015.

A further 4.55 per cent were offered their second-choice school.

Although there were fewer applications this year – 7,312 compared with 7,600 in 2016 – it means just 78 children have been offered a place at a school not listed on their application, compared with 148 in 2016 and 320 in 2015.

Schools organisation and planning manager Roy Leach said: "Through our school place planning work we are continuing to ensure that local school places are available for every Oxfordshire child who needs one.

"Oxfordshire has a strong record in this area and we are continuing to work in close partnership with all schools, including academies, to plan for changing demand and to ensure that families can continue to access good schools for their children."

The county is on course to have created nearly 3,000 additional primary school places between 2015 and 2018.

Support the Oxfordshire Guardian's charity of the year

Football tournament aims to net a record amount with your help

GETTING ready to score two goals in one is a fundraising organisation's mission this year.

And Play2Give hopes the return of its annual football fiesta will help towards netting a fabulous total.

Last month we announced our charity of the year, P2G, is preparing to kick off its annual tournament in July.

It has now revealed it will be more inclusive than ever as it welcomes girls to take part for the first time due to the increasing popularity of women's football.

Hosted once again by Oxford City Football Club in Marston the contest will raise money for the Oxford Children's Hospital.

The popular tournament, which has been P2G's main event since its creation in 2007, raises thousands of pounds each year for the hospital and it is hoped this year up to £5,000 could be scored from the players' efforts.

THE OXFORD PAPER and Oxfordshire Guardian Charity of the year 2017 Play2Give

Oxford City Girls U14s will be taking part in the tournament. Picture: Nathan Staniford

Four teams from Enfield in London will be travelling up for a third year to help in the fundraising crusade.

P2G founder Andy Baker said: "Every year our football tournaments are hugely popular and we see the event grow and grow in terms of the amount of interest.

"From just a single event to a whole multitude of events and initiatives, including merchandise, we just continue to thrive.

"Last year we raised over £3,070 from companies and teams of men entering and we had very disappointed youngsters. So this year we hope the budding footballers of the future will come together and help us to raise money for a fantastic charity – as it's all about children helping children in hospital on the day."

This year's tournament is open to both boys and girls in Under-13 and Under-14 age groups.

Nathan Staniford, manager of the Oxford City Girls Under-14s team, will be helping out on the day.

He said: "Girls' football has grown rapidly in the past five years.

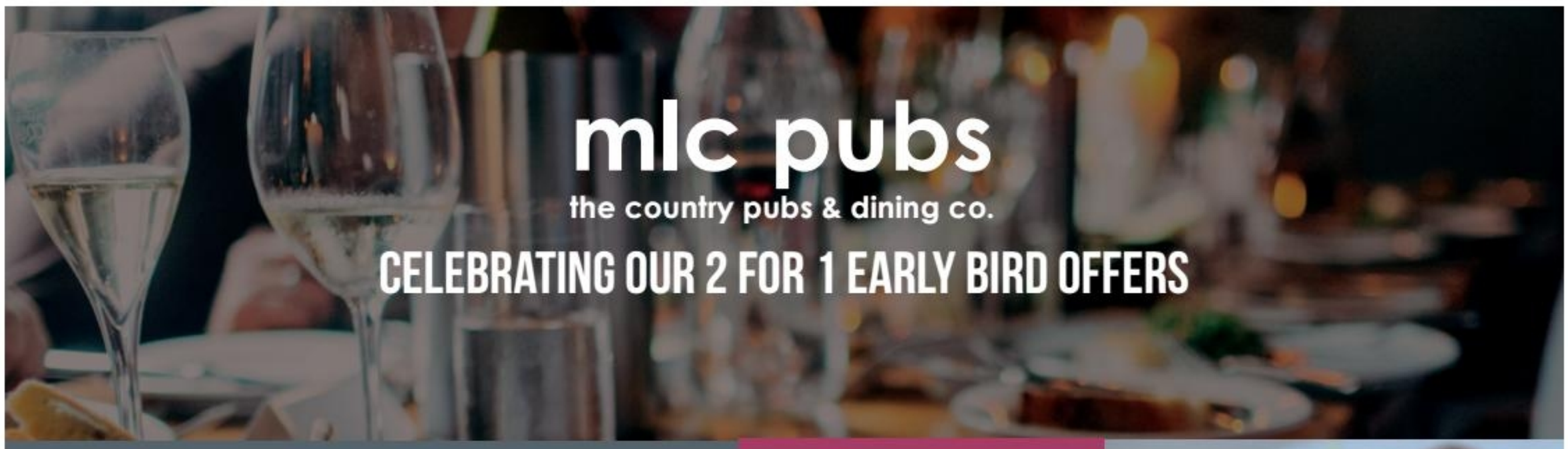
"And with England ladies etting more exposure this will also hopefully encourage more girls to take up football. The investment from such bodies as the Football Foundation is important to give them all an opportunity to play football."

Entries close on June 20 and cost £35 per team.

There will be pitch side entertainment, including music, a bouncy castle and gladiator ring, a raffle and food and refreshments.

To donate to Play2Give or for more information, visit tinyurl.com/zksd8xx

Last week P2G broke a new record with more than £262 raised in its Easter raffle, beating last year's total of £170.



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Cycle racks 'to get town healthier'

CYCLISTS in Bicester will benefit from more cycle racks.

The move is part of Cherwell District Council's commitment to push for more sustainable transport in the town and create a healthier population.

Cycle racks are set to be installed in the town centre and Buckingham Road, Caversfield, between Monday, May 8, and Friday, May 19.

Karen Curtin, Cherwell's commercial director, said: "Cycling is a great alternative to driving and is key to our plans for Bicester.

"By improving cycle parking we hope we can make it as easy as possible for residents to take to two wheels and realise the health benefits.

"As well as increasing individuals' activity levels, cycling has the potential to boost the health of the town as a whole, reducing motor traffic, promoting cleaner air and making public spaces more liveable."

The old racks on Sheep Street are being replaced with 18 new Sheffield stands, which will be spaced further apart to provide greater flexibility and accommodate more cycles.

In Caversfield, new covered cycle stands will be installed alongside the bus stop in Buckingham Road.

Flytip probe as 56 tyres are dumped near layby

By Samantha McGregor

AN investigation has been launched after dozens of tyres were dumped near an Oxfordshire layby.

Cherwell District Council's officers found 56 tyres in a field off the A422 Stratford Road between Wroxton and Balscote, near Banbury.

It is believed they were dumped on or before April 11, when the flytip was discovered by the street cleaning team.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have seen anything suspicious to come forward.

Labels found on the tyres indicate they may have originated from a company selling second hand tyres.

Mark Harmon, Cherwell District Council's environmental enforcement manager, said: "Due to the amount of tyres dumped at the scene we suspect this offence was committed by a motoring business or fraudsters posing as legitimate waste collectors.

"Aside from the environmental issue, it is likely that a trusting customer has paid what they believe to be a reputable company to undertake a task on their behalf. It's unacceptable that they unwittingly helped criminals profit from this crime.

"No flytip is acceptable but in this case the act is deliberate and prolonged, which shows a blatant disregard to the environment, wildlife and our officers who are tasked with clearing the mess.

"It is innocent taxpayers who ultimately lose out as they have to foot the clean-up bill and have resources diverted from tackling other issues across the district."

Officers from Cherwell's enforcement team said all companies have a duty of care to ensure commercial waste is correctly disposed of using a licensed collector. Under Government legislation, the company responsible for the tyres could still be liable for the flytip even if the offence was committed by a bogus collector.

Cherwell's enforcement team is now appealing for information to trace the culprits and said it will pursue a criminal prosecution to recover the clean-up costs.

Tyres dumped in a field off the A422 between Wroxton and Balscote

News Bites

Red kite day

THAME: The Red Kite Family Centre has re-launched with an open day for children and their parents and carers.

Visitors took part in a host of activities including stories, crafts and refreshments.

Mayor of Thame, Cllr Linda Emery, opened the centre.

Run by The Sharing Life Trust, it received a grant of £30,000 from Oxfordshire County Council to operate open access services.

Business survey

THAME: The town's business community is being urged to take part in a survey to capture a "snapshot" of issues facing employers today.

Bosses will be asked about the good and bad of running a business and where improvements could be made.

Coordinator Becky Reid will use the information to prioritise where initial action could be taken as well as create an ongoing agenda for a new town centre working group that is due to be set up.

Bid for grants

THAME: Community groups have just days to get their applications in for the annual grant scheme.

Applications must be submitted by Tuesday, May 2.

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SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2017 ADULTS £23.00 CHILDREN £20.00

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Once again we offer our full day mystery tour with Lunch. Over the last few years this has proved to be the most popular day excursion of the year and is always the first to fill up. If you would like to go on this tour then we suggest that you book early to avoid disappointment.

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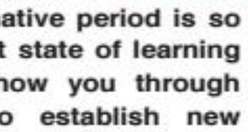
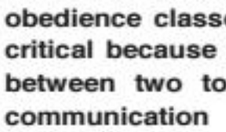


Are you having trouble with your dog's behaviour?



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999 teams test forced entry to respond faster

EMERGENCY medical teams are testing a forced entry initiative to gain access to patients in need of urgent medical attention as quickly as possible.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue and emergency services from the Thames Valley are joining up for a six-month trial of the scheme.

The pilot began on April 3 and involves the three fire and rescue services of the Thames Valley providing a forced entry function on behalf of South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) or Thames Valley Police (TVP).

This initiative aims to tackle the difficulty of accessing premises to reduce the delay delivering medical care to patients and minimise ambulance crew delays, as well as reducing the overall cost to the public.

Police have traditionally provided a forced entry function for the ambulance service but do not routinely carry breaking in equipment which fire crews do have.

Rob MacDougall, assistant chief fire officer, said: "Our firefighters have the specialist skills and equipment to gain entry to people's homes in the event of a fire, so it makes sense to use these capabilities to help ambulance crews gain entry.

"Since the trial began less than two weeks ago, we have already assisted South Central Ambulance on five occasions and were able to swiftly provide access so that ambulance crews could attend to their patients.

"We are all part of the emergency services and continue to look for new ways to support each other so that people across the Thames Valley get the best service possible."

Philip Astle, chief operating officer at SCAS, said: "Ambulance staff will make all attempts possible to gain access to a property prior to contacting the fire service.

"We would ask that any vulnerable members of the public have a key safe on their property and notify the emergency services of the code. We are confident this pilot will be effective and benefit our speed of access to patients."

TVP chief inspector Scott Johnson said: "This initiative is about providing the best possible response from the emergency services to patients needing urgent medical attention.

"It will reduce damage caused to properties, free up ambulance crew time as response times improve and most importantly may improve clinical outcomes for patients. This is joined up thinking and underpins our common aim of keeping our communities safe."

Youngsters rehearsing for their performance of Hot Mikado

Pupils' Mikado show is hot stuff

SINGERS, dancers and actors from schools across Oxfordshire are treading the boards of a famous Oxford venue as they wow audiences with their annual production.

Youngsters from eight schools have joined forces as part of Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre (OYMT) to stage Hot Mikado, a 'hot' reworking of the Gilbert and Sullivan classic giving it a modern feel.

The first of four shows opened at Oxford Playhouse last night featuring the talents of pupils from Cheney School, Didcot Girls Schools, John Mason School, Matthew Arnold School, The Cherwell School, The Henry Box School, The Marlborough Church of England School and Wood Green School.

Head of Oxfordshire county music service Angela Turton said: "The high reputation of the Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre goes before it and the standard is incredibly high.

"I am really looking forward to seeing them perform in a full show for the first time since taking up my post last September.

"Please come along to watch – you will not be disappointed."

Directed by Paul Ansdell with musical direction by Debbie Rose, OYMT works with students aged between 14 and 19, and Debbie's band is largely made up of school-aged instrumentalists.

The remaining productions run this evening (7.30pm), tomorrow evening (8pm) and on Saturday (7.30pm).

A matinee will also be performed on the show's last day at 2.30pm.

OYMT has previously enjoyed putting on other musicals including Crazy for You, The Sound of Music, The Wizard of Oz and Miss Saigon.

Many ex-OYMT cast members have gone on to have careers in the performing industry.

Tickets can be bought from oxfordplayhouse.com and at 01865 305305.

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Study into the history of height

IF you were around just after the Black Death you would probably have been taller than if you were alive to see the unification of Scotland and England under the name of 'Great Britain'.

And if you lived to tell the tale of Æthelberht, the first Anglo-Saxon king to turn his back on paganism and become Christian, you most likely would have been smaller than if you witnessed the collapse of the Roman Empire.

At least, that is the conclusion of boffins at Oxford University who have used data on skeletal remains to calculate how the average height of Englishmen rose or fell over 2,000 years of history, in an attempt to map health and wellbeing.

Lead author Dr Gregori Galofré-Vilà, from Oxford University, said: "Since the early 19th century, average heights for Englishmen have increased substantially, reaching 5ft 7in in 1950 and 5ft 8in in 1970 – among the tallest of any population worldwide."

The average height for a man now is 5ft 9in.

Among the average men are Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, One Direction's Louis Tomlinson and X Factor guru Simon Cowell.

Charity aiming to make cycle paths and rural routes 'safer'

By Eva Astreinidou

CYCLE paths and routes across Oxfordshire are set to become greener and safer.

A charity is aiming to turn thousands of miles of paths into wildlife friendly 'greenways' and to improve routes for cyclists.

Sustrans and the Oxfordshire Cycling Network (OCN) are working on separate projects to improve safety on cycling routes while also looking out for the wellbeing of people and nature.

Volunteers from Sustrans will be surveying the National Cycle Network across the south of England in order to improve routes to suit the nature and wildlife nearby through the 'Greener Greenways' project.

Some walking and cycling routes in Oxfordshire and Berkshire are due to benefit from the charity's green approach, including the Phoenix Trail between Thame and Princes Risborough and the Hanson Way, which joins Didcot and Oxford.

James Cleeton, Sustrans' director for the south of England, said: "Our understanding of nature has improved hugely.

"We now know that wildlife uses corridors to find its way much in the same way that people use cycling and walking routes. So the National Cycle Network really is a perfect framework for a hands-on project that can benefit both people and nature."

The Oxfordshire Cycling Network (OCN) also has a part to play in wider plans to improve cycling routes.

On Saturday, members of the OCN held a gathering outside County Hall to endorse their 'Space for Cycling' scheme, a 366-mile network that will run across the county.

OCN are seeking support for the scheme, which could see towns, workplaces and transport hubs linked with safe and direct cycle routes.

The new route would have smooth tarmac, would be at least three metres wide and separated from busy roads by a green verge.

In town, cycle tracks would be separated from both pedestrians and vehicles.

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Crowds enjoy a previous Armed Forces Day

Tribute to forces day 'will be spectacular'

ARMED Forces Day will be celebrated in style in North Oxfordshire at two events to honour the country's servicemen and women.

Bicester will mark the day on Saturday June 24 with a joint event at the town's annual carnival, while Banbury town centre will host a parade and military activities.

It will be led by one of the country's "great military bands". The Waterloo Band of the Rifles, based at Abingdon, is known for its fast marching speed of 140 paces per minute and has regimental traditions that date back to the Peninsular War of 1808-1814.

The band will be in Banbury on Saturday, July 1, in an event that will include military demonstrations, static displays and military vehicles.

Banbury Town Council events manager Ann Sewell said: "The Waterloo Band will be a marvellous sight in Banbury. They play at events all over the world.

"Armed Forces Day in Banbury is hailed as one of the most spectacular in the country.

"This year will again be a very special day in the town's calendar.

"The event is a chance to show support for the men and women who make up the armed forces community – from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets."

This year the Market Place will be packed with things to see and do – marching bands, climbing wall, bomb disposal demonstrations and child participation events.

The around-town parade will leave the Market Place at 11am and march up Parson's Street, into North Bar and Horsefair and back down High Street.

In Bicester the town will once again mark Armed Forces Day with a joint event at Bicester Carnival on June 24 at Pingle Field.

A carnival procession kicks off the event at noon from the leisure centre and parades through the town to Pingle Field where the Mayor gives her awards for best floats.

Views sought on police priorities

HENLEY residents are being urged to have their say on the way local policing is run.

A survey is being carried out by Henley Neighbourhood Team to help them set policing priorities for the year ahead.

The questionnaire only has two questions and takes less than five minutes to complete.

It offers an opportunity to rank a number of issues for the local neighbourhood policing team to tackle as priorities.

The issues include burglary, anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people in Henley town, Goring, Woodcote, Nettlebed and Sonning Common. The survey also asks whether the respondent would be interested in being part of an independent community focus group.

Sergeant Tim Pavey from Henley said: "We are looking to bring together a group of people to discuss and assess our local policing priorities.

"We're also appealing for people to be pro-active members of the community by working to generate ideas to help us to tackle problems.

"Thames Valley Police and our partners will attend the community focus groups, but the idea is that the group is chaired independently of the police and that its members will be representative of the community.

"For those excited about the prospect of being part of a group representing your community and shaping its future I would encourage you to click 'Yes' to question two."

Ranking priority issues allows officers to focus their energy on things residents are most concerned about. It does not mean other issues will be ignored.

Over 100 people had returned the survey as of Thursday last week.

News Bites

Memorial repairs

BANBURY: The war memorial in People's Park is to be repaired and updated.

Work on the crumbling stonework started this week and is expected to take five weeks.

An additional message will be carved to pay tribute to servicemen and women who have lost their lives since the end of World War Two.

Mike Hall, Banbury Town Council's recreation and amenities manager, said: "The memorial is a special place for many residents and this council has a duty to keep in it good condition.

"The work being done this year will ensure its future."

Golf manager

OXON: Frilford Heath Golf Club has appointed Daniel Blesovsky as the golf manager at its Oxfordshire based course.

It comes as the club prepares to open a new par-3 course and golf shop.

A PGA professional with a sports science and business management degree, Daniel has over a decade of experience.

Prison recall

BICESTER: Police are appealing for information about a woman who is wanted on recall to prison.

Lisa Stevens, aged 33, of Bicester, was jailed for 21 months for robbery by Oxford Crown Court, in August last year and released on licence in March.

She has since breached the terms of her licence.

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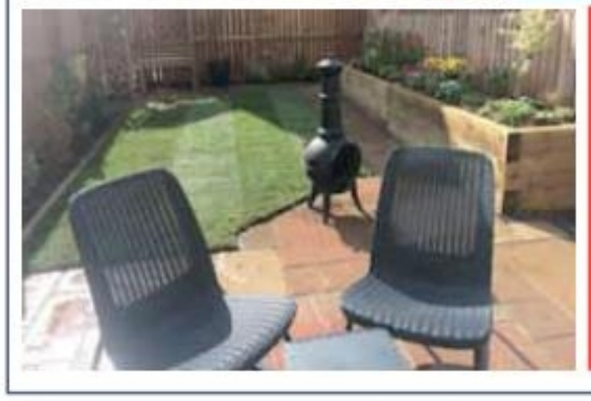

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BASED on author W. Bruce Cameron's beloved best-selling novel, A Dog's Purpose shares the heart warming and surprising story of one devoted dog who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love.

Over the course of five decades, a single voice—that of an indefatigable dog (Josh Gad) —takes us along a riveting and uplifting path that speaks to the heart of anyone who has ever loved an animal. Although he is reincarnated in the bodies of multiple canines through the years, it is his unbreakable bond with a kindred spirit named Ethan (Dennis Quaid) that carries and inspires one dog throughout his journey to find his true purpose.

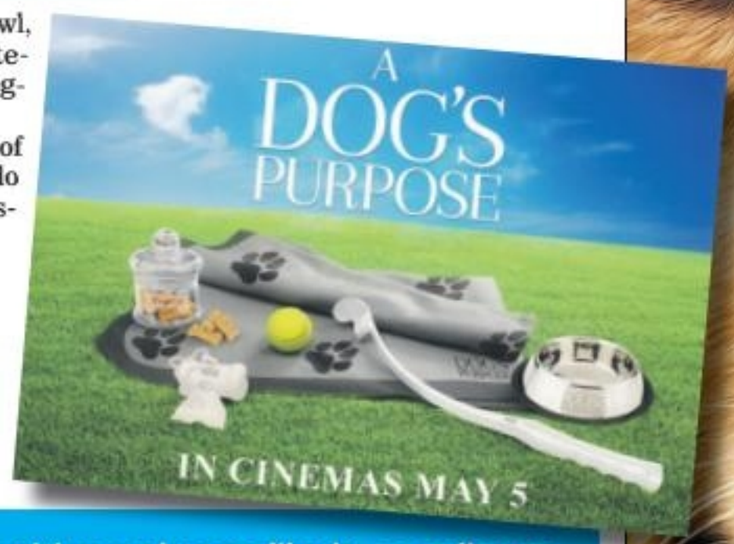
WIN goodies!

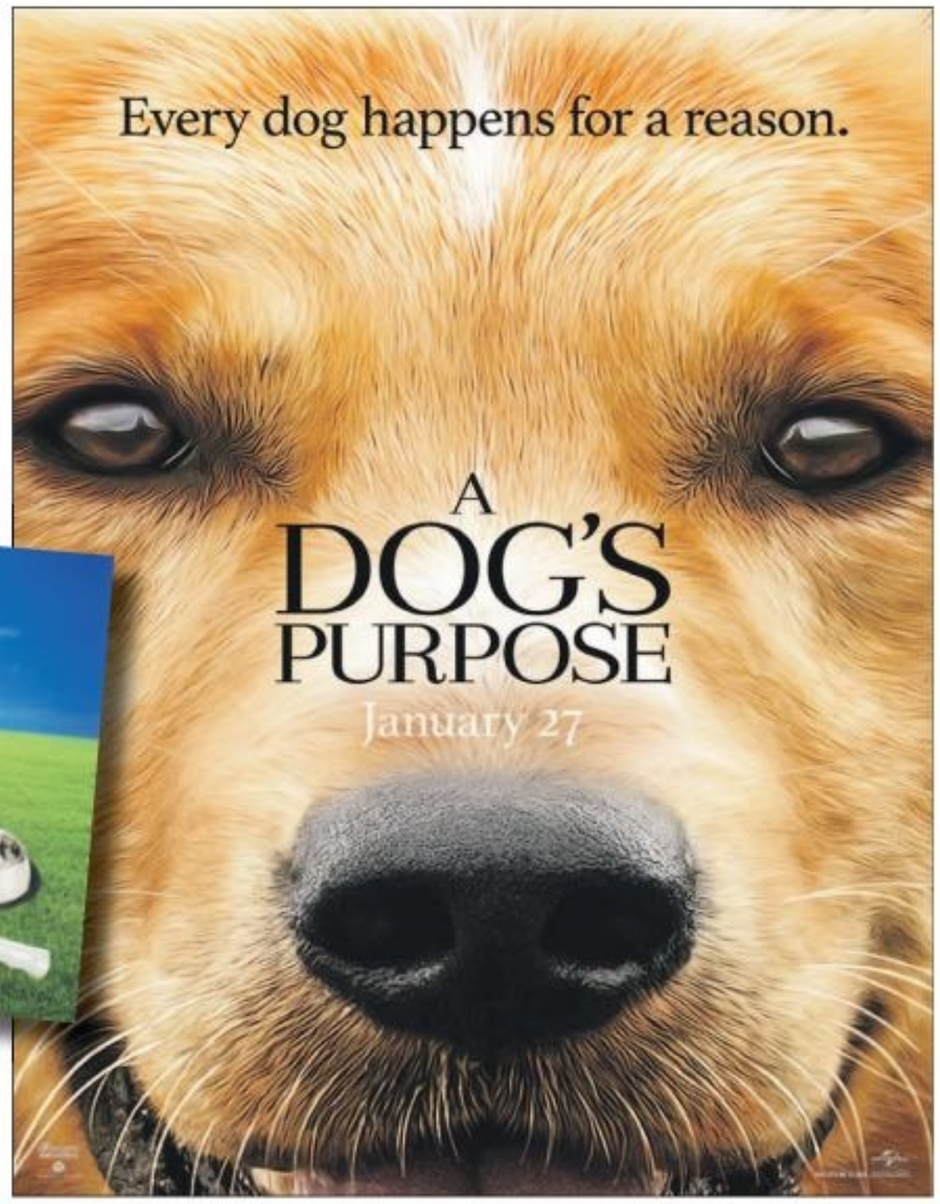
We have five packs of great stuff available to be won. The prizes include a ball-thrower, a doggie bowl, a themed blanket, a waste-bag dispenser and a dog-treat jar!

Closing date: Friday, March 12

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: Who wrote the novel A Dog's Purpose?





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Grand Designs Live is the ultimate event to provide inspiration, inform and spark the creativity in all design enthusiasts!

Set across six sections: Build, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Interiors, Technology and Gardens, the show offers visitors a great day out, hundreds of innovative ideas for the home, interactive workshops, instructive talks and demonstrations.

See Kevin at the Grand Theatre, sponsored by Airflow, get advice from industry heavyweights at the ever-popular Ask An Expert service, sponsored by Express Bi-folding Doors, and see top chefs at work and discover an array of hi-tech appliances at the The Living Kitchen, sponsored by Miele.

Kevin's Green Heroes will return for 2017, showcasing the most pioneering and eco-friendly products on the market, while new feature, the Grand Shed Project, sponsored by AXA Insurance invites designers to showcase their innovative ideas of how to expand the home, by utilising the often-overlooked garden shed as an extension of living space.

Closing date: Monday, May 1

Get access to top brands launching new products, compare hundreds of products and prices and check out homewares that are not yet available on the high street.

HOW to claim:

There's no money to pay, simply visit www.granddesignslive.com and follow the link to book tickets.

Enter your details with our unique reference code OXFREE, then download a maximum of 2 x adult weekday tickets (standard weekday tickets are valid to use on 2, 3, 4 and 5 May only). Children 15 or under are free, you can obtain free child ticket(s) at the box office on site. Normal weekday adult entry is £12 in advance and £17 on the door. Tickets are subject to availability.

You can buy additional tickets at the advance ticket price of £12, weekday and £15 weekend. Follow the on-screen instructions.

Grand Designs Live, London is on from April 29 – May 7 2017 at ExCeL, London from 10am – 6pm on April 29, 30, May 1, 5, 6 and from 10am – 5pm on May 2, 3, 4 and 7.

www.granddesignslive.com

TERMS and Conditions:

A maximum of two free adult tickets per household can be claimed. Tickets can only be claimed online and cannot be claimed by any other method. Tickets are available for use on Tuesday May 2 – Friday May 5 only. Tickets must be claimed by Monday May 1. Any claim made after this date will be invalid. Your name will be printed on the ticket. Tickets cannot be exchanged for cash, are not transferable and cannot be duplicated. Once all free tickets have been claimed the code will no longer work.

There are only 300 pairs of tickets available which will be issued on a first-come first-served basis. You must print your own tickets and show them at the entrance to Grand Designs Live on the date you have chosen. Failure to print your tickets could result in refusal of entry. In the event of any dispute, the show's organisers, Media 10 Ltd have the right to refuse admission.

Call the ticket hotline on 0844 854 1348.

For more information visit Grand Designs Live - www.granddesignslive.com

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Female relative (6)
8 Sang (7)
9 Terrified (6)
10 Transmitting apparatus (9)
11 Strip of fabric (4)
13 Prepares for publication (5)
14 Liberty (7)
16 Start a quarrel (7)
18 Flood (5)
19 Consumes (4)
21 Nomads (9)
22 Expenditure (6)
23 Group (7)
24 Highest points (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Collies (9)
2 Shareholders (9)
3 Cheerful (5)
5 Move very slowly (4)
6 Fine cord (6)
7 Buy back (6)
9 Recreational activity
11 Moderate (9)
12 Coming after (9)
15 Attempt (5)
16 Dawn (6)
17 Kindly (6)
20 Notions (5)
21 Grow dim (4)

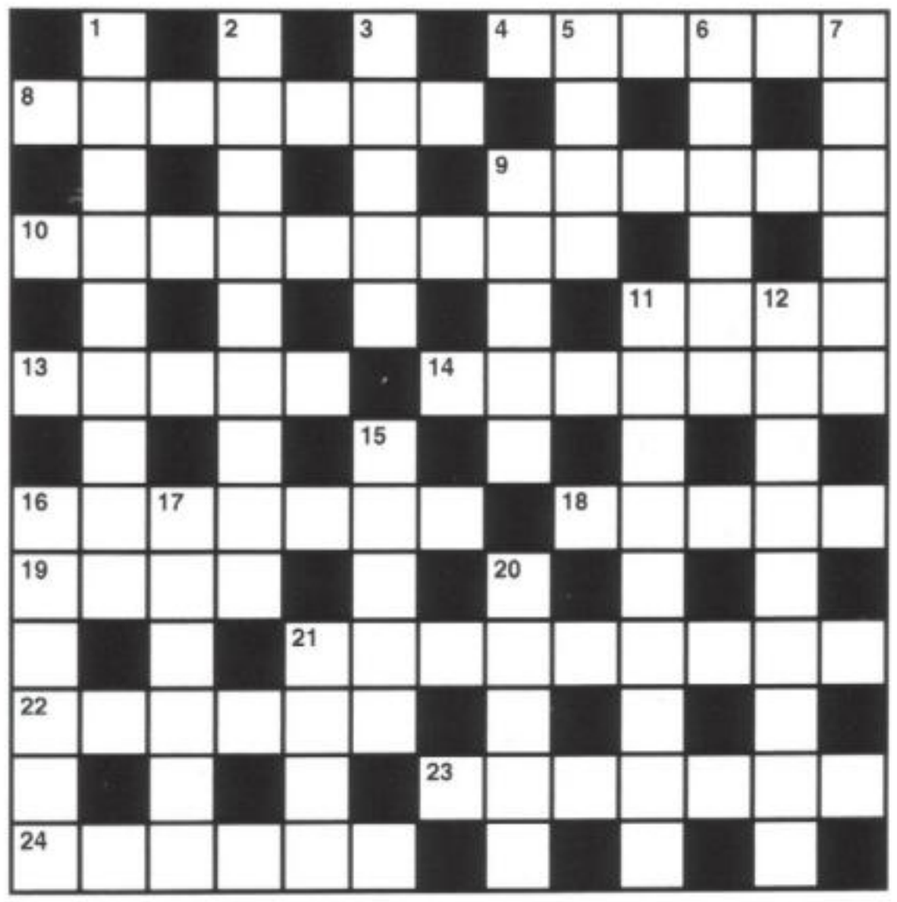
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Frightened in Biafra, I dare say (6)
8 Claimed to get the point (7)
9 An eavesdropper of low degree (6)
10 An everyday remark showing restrained breadth (9)
11 Was Goliath keen to behead his opponent? (4)
13 Behead the guard to gain admittance (5)
14 Do they till the soil beyond distant French seas? (7)
16 He doesn't enjoy life, producing vinegar all around the south
18 Inclined to soak (5)
19 Looks as though she would provide shelter (4)
21 Give us our part to be carried away (9)
22 Curtail the action before the writer can make it more profound (6)
23 Forbid one as fruit (7)
24 Are its ingredients wholly ironic? (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Helpers in disarray pour out again (9)
2 Trots back and died without (9)
3 Superfluous midriff, by the sound of it (5)
5 Watch this for the time being (4)
6 A recess in rural Coventry (6)
7 Is frightened of disturbing the snakes (6)
9 I do business with a model (5)
11 City for the Dutch master mad about a new movement? (9)
12 Not even abnormal (9)
15 Does the prima donna begin her note on the couch? (5)
16 A team's undertones? (6)
17 Join me in the money (6)
20 Here's a mixed toast to the furry animal (5)
21 Bring up, or it could be brought up (4)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

8	4			6	3			
	2	7		4				9
	9	1				5		6
		3			8		1	
9		2	6		4	7		8
	5		7			2		
5		6				8	3	
1				7		4	2	
			3	5			9	7

8						2		6
		1	4	6				
7			8			9		3
		7			8			
	5	9				3	8	
			2			5		
9		6			2			5
				8	6	4		
5		4						8

	1					6	4	
							7	2
		9	7		8			
2				8				
		5	9		4	1		
				2				8
			1		3	9		
9	4							
	7	6					5	

This week's solutions

8	3	5	4	1	6	7	9	2
6	2	7	9	5	3	4	1	8
4	9	1	7	8	2	6	5	3
5	8	9	3	2	1	4	6	7
7	6	4	8	9	5	3	2	1
2	1	3	6	7	4	9	8	5
9	5	8	2	6	7	1	3	4
1	4	6	5	3	9	8	7	2
3	7	2	1	4	8	5	6	9

3	9	1	2	8	7	5	4	6
7	6	3	5	2	8	9	1	4
9	1	2	6	3	4	7	5	8
4	5	8	7	1	9	2	6	3
5	7	6	4	9	2	8	3	1
1	3	9	8	7	6	4	2	5
6	2	7	1	4	5	3	8	9
8	4	5	9	6	3	1	7	2

8	4	5	9	6	3	1	7	2
6	2	7	1	4	5	3	8	9
3	9	1	2	8	7	5	4	6
7	6	3	5	2	8	9	1	4
9	1	2	6	3	4	7	5	8
4	5	8	7	1	9	2	6	3
5	7	6	4	9	2	8	3	1
1	3	9	8	7	6	4	2	5
2	8	4	3	5	1	6	9	7

Quick Crossword

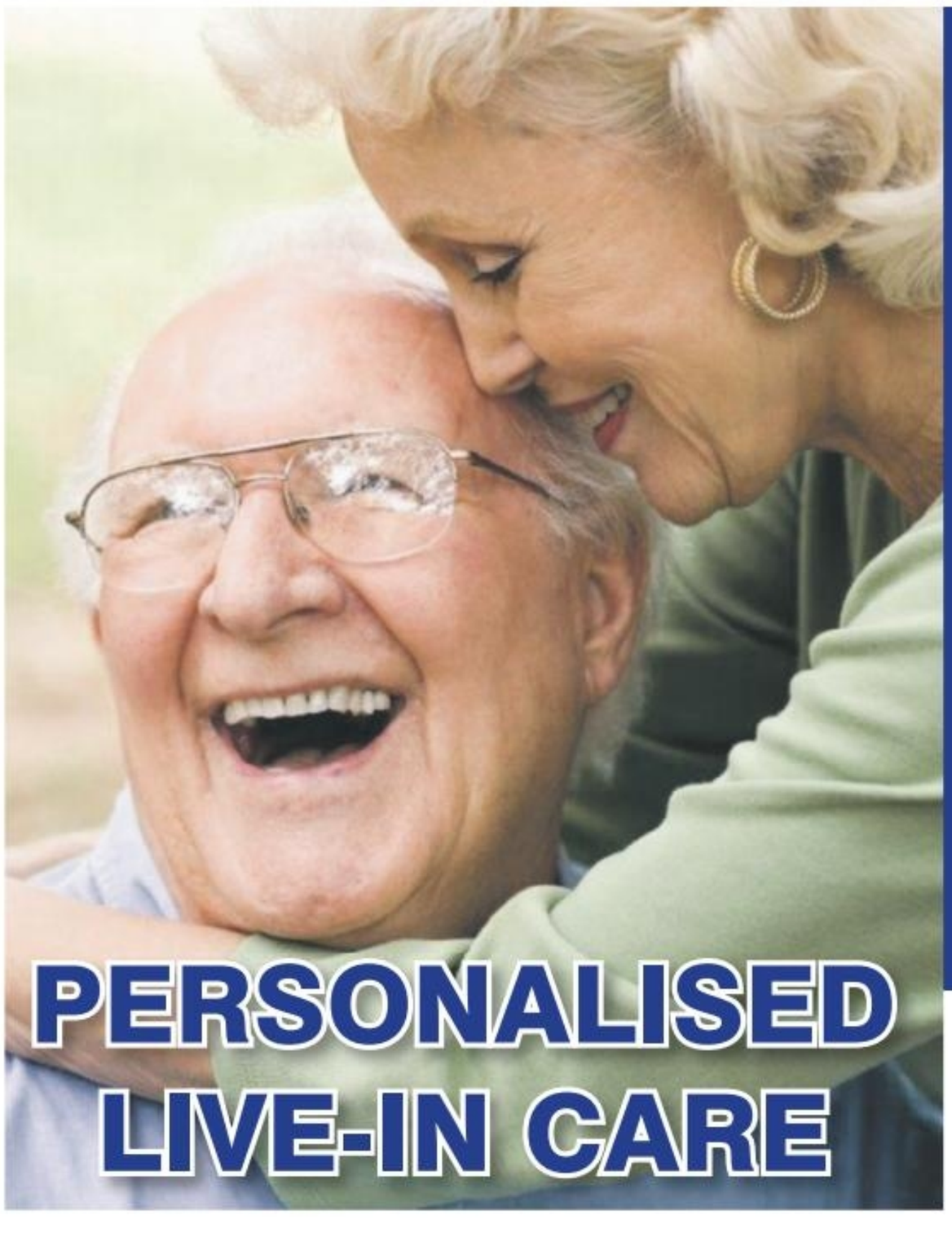
Across: 4 Sister 8 Chanted 9 Scared 10 Telegraph 11 Tape 13 Edits 14 Freedom 16 Aggress 18 Spate 19 Uses 21 Wanderers 22 Outlay 23 Faction 24 Apexes

Down: 1 Sheepdogs 2 Investors 3 Merry 5 Inch 6 Thread 7 Redeem 9 Sport 11 Temperate 12 Posterior 15 Essay 16 Aurora 17 Gentle 20 Ideas 21 Wane

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Afraid 8 Decimal 9 Iodine 10 Platitude 11 Awd 13 Entry 14 Farmers 16 Ascetic 18 Steep 19 Shed 21 Rapturous 22 Deepen 23 Bananas 24 Satire

Down: 1 Replenish 2 Distorted 3 Waste 5 Face 6 Alcove 7 Dreads 9 Ideal 11 Amsterdam 12 Irregular 15 Divan 16 Asides 17 Cement 20 Stoat 21 Rear



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"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Step into Spring – with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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Life on The Island

A photographic exhibition exploring South Africa's Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was held prisoner during Apartheid can be seen in Chipping Norton next month.

This exhibition will run alongside a theatrical production of The Island by Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona, directed by Chipping Norton Theatre's John Terry.

Petre Smith is a South African photographer now living in Oxfordshire who, having spent childhood holidays on Robben Island owing to his father being in the prison service, holds a unique insight into the place and the people behind the play.

This exhibition of new and original photography, entitled Kwisiqithi, will accompany the production of The Island on tour.

Kwisiqithi is the Xhosa word for The Island, the tongue in which Nelson Mandela and the freedom fighters debated and designed the first constitution draft for a free South Africa while taking respite from workin in the hazardous chalk mine.

Smith said: "During my innocent days as a child, Robben Island was a place I associated with long summer holidays, freedom to roam and fond memories playing and exploring with my cousin. I still hold those warm and joyous memories of my family holidays on Robben Island.

"Those days are gone now but the island remains, a powerful metaphor of the rudder of perception and man's ability to instil a dark and ominous soul to an island, a shadow locked away at the bottom of the earth. Through my series of photos, I tried to capture that dark, ever-present sense of despair and literal apartheid because of being different, misunderstood or oppressed."

The exhibition and play come to The Theatre Chipping Norton from May 10 to 20.

Tickets cost £15, £13 conc, £5 under 26's (incl. £1.50 per ticket booking fee)

To book call the box office on 01608 642350, for more information go to www.chippingnortontheatre.com

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Saturday April 29th

DAYTIME

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Live Snooker: The World Championship** (S) **4.30 Final Score** A round-up of this afternoon's football results. (S) **5.30 Who Dares Wins** (S) **6.10 BBC News** (S) **6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.30 Pointless Celebrities** (S)

7 **7.20 Doctor Who** A sinister force stirs beneath the surface of the frozen Thames in Regency-era London. (S)

8 **8.10 Casualty** Part two of two. Lily is rushed into the ED after being found unconscious in the car park. (S)

9 **9.00 BBC News;** Weather (S)
9.20 All Round to Mrs Brown's West End star Michael Ball and TV actress Sunetra Sarker join Agnes in her sitting room; (S) National Lottery Update (S)

10 **10.20 Match of the Day** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Southampton v Hull City at St Mary's Stadium. (S)

11 **11.25 Murder in Successville** (S)
11.55 FILM Wild Hogs (2007) (12) Comedy adventure, with John Travolta, William H Macy, Tim Allen and Martin Lawrence. (S)

AFTER 12 **1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) **1.35** BBC News (S)

BBC2

10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship (S) **12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well** (S)(R) **12.30 Hairy Bikers' Best of British** (S)(R) **1.15 60s Icons: Talking Pictures** (S) **1.45 FILM The Ipcress File (1965) (PG)** (S) **3.30 Natural World** (S)(R) **4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship** (S) **5.30 The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years** (S)(R) **6.30 Dad's Army** (S)(R)

7 **7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship** Hazel Irvine presents the concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. (S)

8

9 **9.30 FILM Calvary (2014) (15)** Premiere. Drama, starring Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd. (S)

10

11 **11.05 Versailles** The King's bad example is seen as typical of the nobility's immorality as his adultery with Madame de Montespan troubles his Queen and Father Pascal. (S)(R)

AFTER 12 **12.05 FILM Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002) (PG)** Fact-based Australian drama, starring Everlyn Sampi. (S) **1.30** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

8.30 Weekend (S) **9.25 The Home Game** (S)(R) **10.20 James Martin's French Adventure** (S)(R) **11.20 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **12.25 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Bigheads** (S)(R) **1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Sandown** (S) **4.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs** (S)(R) **4.30 Britain's Got More Talent** (S) **5.30 Catchphrase** (S)(R) **6.15 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.25 ITV News** (S) **6.45 Take Me Out** (S)

7

8 **8.00 Britain's Got Talent** The auditions reach their third week, as more would-be stars demonstrate their unique talents to the judges. (S)

9 **9.20 Through the Keyhole** With Kimberley Walsh, Jonathan Ross and Andi Peters. (S)(R)

10 **10.15 ITV News;** Weather (S)
10.35 FILM Yes Man (2008) (12) Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel. (S)

11

AFTER 12 **12.25 Jackpot247 3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV** Nightscreen

Channel 4

7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond (S)(R) **8.20 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.55 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live** (S) **11.25 F1 Meets Daniel Ricciardo** (S) **11.55 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Live** (S) **2.30 The Auctioneers** (S) **3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.35 Big House, Little House** (S) **5.35 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7 **7.00 The Restoration Man** George catches up with a couple who set themselves the challenge of transforming a derelict airfield control tower into a home. (S)

8 **8.00 Walking Through Time** Dr Tori Herridge investigates the ancient forces that shaped the British landscape. (S)(R)

9 **9.00 FILM Carol (2015) (15)** Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara. (S)

10

11 **11.20 FILM Zombieland (2009) (15)** Comedy horror, starring Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg and Emma Stone. (S)

AFTER 12 **1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S)(R) **1.50** Hollyoaks (S)(R) **3.55** Shipping Wars UK (S)(R) **4.20** Fifteen to One (S)(R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location (S)(R)

Channel 5

10.15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.50 Access** (S) **10.55 Criminals: Caught on Camera** (S)(R) **11.20 The Gadget Show** (S)(R) **1.15 On Benefits: Costa del Dole** (S)(R) **2.15 On Benefits: Living the High Life** (S)(R) **3.15 On Benefits: Single & Skint** (S)(R) **4.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R) **5.10 Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies** (S)(R) **6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R)

7 **7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles** A Navy intelligence officer is murdered. (S)

8 **8.00 NCIS** The team asks a traumatised serviceman to relive the events of a brutal ambush in Iraq. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9 **9.00 Football on 5: The Championship** Action from the penultimate round of regular-season fixtures in the Championship. (S)

10 **10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush** Action from the latest fixtures. (S)
10.15 FILM Tower Block (2012) (15) Thriller, starring Sheridan Smith and Jack O'Connell. (S)

11

AFTER 12 **12.00 SuperCasino 3.10 FILM The Long Ships (1963) (PG)** Viking adventure, starring Richard Widmark and Sidney Poitier. (S) **5.15** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 The Hot Desk: Ella Eyre **6.10** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **11.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.25** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Take Me Out **2.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **3.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **4.20** FILM: Flubber (1997) (U) Children's comedy remake, starring Robin Williams. **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** FILM: Flubber (1997) (U) Concluded. **6.10** FILM: The Incredible Hulk (2008) (12) Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton. **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** FILM: The Incredible Hulk (2008) (12) Concluded. **8.20** Scorpion **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.25** Celebrity Juice: Couples Special **11.25** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **2.10** Through the Keyhole **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** Murder, She Wrote **9.10** FILM: Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) (PG) **10.50** Goodnight Mister Tom **12.55** Margery and Gladys **3.00** Lewis **4.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British **8.00** The BBC at War **9.00** FILM: Pioneer (2013) (15) Premiere. Norwegian thriller, starring Aksel Hennie. **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **2.05** Duets: The Andy Williams Show **3.05** Sounds of the Eighties **3.35** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.45** Black-ish **7.10** Made in Chelsea **8.10** Melissa & Joey **10.30** The Goldbergs **12.30** FILM: Hop (2011) (U) **2.30** FILM: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Safe House (2012) (15) Thriller, with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** New Girl

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Location, Location, Location **10.00** Coast vs Country **11.00** Come Dine with Me **1.40** Four in a Bed **4.25** Come Dine with Me **7.00** Nazi Megastructures **8.00** Hitler: The Rise and Fall **9.00** Spying on Hitler's Army: The Secret Recordings **10.05** The World's Most Extreme **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.10** Father Ted **1.10** Hitler: The Rise and Fall **2.15** Spying on Hitler's Army: The Secret Recordings **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats: Jimmy, Sean and Jon's Best Bits **3.45** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Courage Mountain (1990) (U) **1.00** The Borrowers (1997) (U) **2.45** The Rugrats Movie (1999) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Elizabeth Daily. **4.20** One Fine Day (1996) (PG) Romantic comedy, starring George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer. **6.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) (12) Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. **9.00** Bad Neighbours (2014) (15) Comedy, starring Seth Rogen and Zac Efron. **10.50** Willow Creek (2013) (15) Premiere. Horror, starring Alexie Gilmore and Bryce Johnson. **12.25** Troll Hunter (2010) (15) **2.30** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) (18) **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Lizard Lick Towing **9.00** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **10.00** Top Gear **12.00** Traffic Cops **2.00** Lizard Lick Towing **3.00** Sin City Motors **5.00** Top Gear **7.00** Red Dwarf **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **11.40** Live at the Apollo **12.45** FILM: Kill Bill: Vol 1 (2003) (18) **2.50** Room 101 **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Great Expectations **10.00** Cranford **3.00** Cranford: Return to Cranford **7.00** FILM: Ballet Shoes. Drama, starring Emma Watson and Victoria Wood. **9.00** The Scandalous Lady W **11.00** Elizabeth I **1.10** Great Expectations **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Big Town Dance **7.45** Football's Funniest Moments **8.15** Game Changers **8.45** Fantasy FC – Merse Meets Carrick **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** The F1 Show **12.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **12.30** Wild Things **1.30** David Attenborough's Natural History Museum Alive **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Football Gold **5.30** MacGyver **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Inside the Freemasons **9.00** Micky Flanagan Thinking Aloud **10.00** FILM: In the Line of Fire (1993) (15) Thriller, starring Clint Eastwood. **12.30** NCIS: Los Angeles **1.30** Road Wars **2.00** Revolution **3.00** Arrow **4.00** Ninja Warrior

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Fish Town **9.00** The West Wing **2.00** Cold Case **4.00** House **6.00** Nothing Left Unsaid: Gloria Vanderbilt & Anderson **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **12.20** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **12.55** Real Time with Bill Maher **2.05** The Circus: Inside The Biggest Story On Earth **2.40** Banshee **3.40** Girls **4.15** The Guest Wing **5.05** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.00 Beverly Hills Pawn **6.45** The Bill **11.50** EastEnders **2.20** The Boy in the Dress **3.40** FILM: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) (PG) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **6.00** FILM: Ella Enchanted (2004) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Anne Hathaway. **8.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Ellie Simmonds **9.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **10.00** FILM: GoodFellas (1990) (18) Crime drama, with Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci. **1.00** Grimm **2.00** The Honourable Woman **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.20 Ever Decreasing Circles **7.50** Butterflies **10.30** Last of the Summer Wine **12.30** To the Manor Born **1.50** As Time Goes By **3.10** Keeping Up Appearances **4.30** Marley's Ghosts **5.10** Gavin & Stacey **7.10** The Catherine Tate Christmas Show **7.50** Gavin & Stacey **9.10** The Royle Family **11.00** Black Books **12.10** FILM: Little Miss Sunshine (2006) (15) **2.10** Human Remains **2.45** The Armando Iannucci Shows **3.15** Nighty Night **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Wladimir Klitschko: Behind the Ropes **6.30** Anthony Joshua: Behind the Ropes **7.00** Froch Returns **7.15** Joshua/Klitschko: The Countdown 1 **7.45** Joshua/Klitschko: The Countdown 2 **8.15** Premier League Preview **8.45** Fantasy FC – Merse Meets Carrick **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live SPFL Football. Rangers v Celtic (kick-off 12.00pm). **2.30** Live PRO12 Rugby Union. Ospreys v Ulster (kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Live EFL. Brighton & Hove Albion v Bristol City (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** SPFL Highlights **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** SPFL Highlights **12.00** Premier League Highlights **2.00** SPFL Highlights **2.30** Premier League Highlights **4.30** SPFL Highlights **5.00** Premier League Highlights

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Sunday April 30th

DAYTIME

BBC1

9.00 The Andrew Marr Show (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.15 Wanted Down Under** (S)(R) **3.15 Flog It!** (S)(R) **4.05 Points of View** (S) **4.20 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **5.05 Songs of Praise** (S) **5.40 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **6.30 BBC News** (S) **6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

7 **7.00 Countryfile** Ellie Harrison visits a hedgehog rehab centre in Warwickshire. (S)

8 **8.00 Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents from Trelissick, near Truro in Cornwall,. (S)

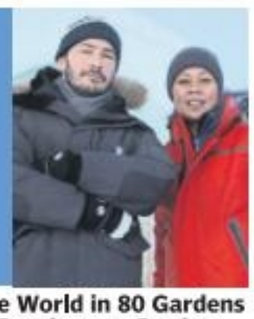
9 **9.00 Line of Duty** Nick is about to be charged with Tim Ifield's murder, but the AC-12 team is running out of time to prove that Roz was involved in the crime. Last in the series. (S)

10 **10.00 BBC News** (S) **10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **10.30 Match of the Day 2** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action. (S)

11 **11.50 The Women's Football Show** Action from the latest FA WASL Spring Series fixtures. (S)

AFTER 12 **12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) **12.30** BBC News (S)

BBC2



7.15 Around the World in 80 Gardens (S)(R) **8.15 The Beechgrove Garden** (S) **8.50 Countryfile** (S)(R) **9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.15 Nigel Slater: Eating Together** (S)(R) **11.45 Simply Nigella** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 Athletics: World Relay Championship Highlights** (S) **2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship** (S) **6.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby** (S)(R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre. (S)

11.00 FILM Drive (2011) (18) Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling and Carey Mulligan. (S)

12.35 Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **1.35** Holby City (S)(R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 Countrywise: Guide to Britain** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **11.00 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **12.00 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.05 Fishing Impossible** (S)(R) **12.35 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (S)(R) **1.35 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **2.40 Britain's Got Talent** (S)(R) **4.00 FILM On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) (PG)** (S) **6.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.45 ITV News** (S)

7.00 Bigheads Contestants undertake physical challenges while wearing giant model heads celebrities. With Jason Manford. (S)

8.00 The Durrells Larry's latest novel is being published – but nobody seems to be impressed. (S)

9.00 Grantchester The villagers play a cricket match against nearby Whittlesford, but after an incident involving contaminated beer, one batsman is found poisoned. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.20 Lethal Weapon The festive holiday season weighs heavily on Riggs, who flashes back to past Christmases with his late wife Miranda. (S)(R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.15 Peston on Sunday (S)(R) **1.10** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** The Cube (S)(R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.10 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **7.55 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.00 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.00 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live Build-Up** (S) **12.35 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live** (S) **3.10 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live Reaction** (S) **4.30 World's Most Expensive Cars** (S) **5.35 Channel 4 News** (S) **6.05 George Clarke's Old House, New Home** (S)(R)

7.00 Escape to Costa Rica New series. Science writer Gaia Vince explores the most sustainable nation in the world. (S)

8.00 FILM Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011) (12) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. (S)

11.00 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)(R)

12.05 FILM Mud (2012) (12) (S) **2.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **2.50** Gillette World Sport (S) **3.15** Shipping Wars UK (S)(R) **3.40** Building the Dream (S) **4.35** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **5.30** Four in a Bed (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **8.55 Football on 5: The Championship** (S)(R) **9.45 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **10.00 Great Birmingham 10k** (S) **12.00 FILM Getting Even with Dad (1994) (PG)** (S) **2.00 FILM Three Men and a Little Lady (1990) (PG)** (S) **4.00 FILM Housesitter (1992) (PG)** (S) **6.00 FILM Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991) (PG)** (S)

8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Greatest Ever 90s Movies Patsy Kensit presents a countdown of famous films from the last decade of the 20th century, including Titanic and Trainspotting. (S)(R)

11.50 Football on 5: Goal Rush The final fixtures of the regular season in League One. (S)

12.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera (S)(R) **1.00** SuperCasino **3.10 FILM Charade (1963) (PG)** Romantic thriller, with Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. (S) **5.00** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.25** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **6.25** Emmerdale **9.00** Coronation Street **11.25** Take Me Out **12.40** Catchphrase **1.20** You've Been Framed! Goes Wild! **2.25** FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) (U) Fantasy comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman. **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30** FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) (U) **4.15** Britain's Got Talent **5.40** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** FILM: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) (12) Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock. **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** FILM: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) (12) Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock. **9.00** Take Me Out - The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.10** Fleur East: The Hot Desk **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 In Loving Memory **6.25** Goodnight Mister Tom **8.30** Murder, She Wrote **9.35** Heartbeat **11.40** FILM: Forever Young (1992) (PG) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45** FILM: Forever Young (1992) (PG) **1.40** A Touch of Frost **3.50** Foyle's War **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** Prince Harry in Africa **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.00** Lewis **3.40** May the Best House Win **5.20** In Loving Memory **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The Birth of British Music **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** Horizon: Dancing in the Dark - The End of Physics? **10.00** Trump's First 100 Days **11.00** Being Evel Knievel: Storyville **12.30** The BBC at War **1.30** Metamorphosis - The Science of Change **2.30** Horizon: Dancing in the Dark - The End of Physics? **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **7.25** Hollyoaks **9.55** Made in Chelsea **11.00** The Goldbergs **12.30** Black-ish **1.00** Baby Daddy **1.30** Kevin Can Wait **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** New Girl **3.00** FILM: The Net (1995) (12) Thriller, starring Sandra Bullock. **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **1.05** Celebrity First Dates **2.10** Naked Attraction **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Vet on the Hill **9.55** Coast vs Country **11.00** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** How to Lose Weight Well **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Sarah Millican: Chatterbox Live **11.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.15** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.15** Man Down **2.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Hercules (1983) (15) **1.00** Song of the Sea (2014) (PG) **2.50** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) (U) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **4.30** Short Circuit (1986) (PG) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. **6.35** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) (12) Comedy, with Robin Williams. **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) (12) Crime thriller, starring Jesse Eisenberg. **11.15** The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) (15) Thriller remake, starring Denzel Washington and John Travolta. **1.20** The Player (1992) (15) **3.55** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Traffic Cops **8.00** The Best of Top Gear **9.00** Top Gear **10.05** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **1.00** Ronnie's Redneck Road Trip **2.00** Arnie's Greatest Ever Stunts **4.00** Gavin & Stacey **6.00** Top Gear **7.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Room 101 **12.20** QI **1.20** Taskmaster **2.15** Red Dwarf **2.50** Room 101 **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.05 Steptoe and Son **7.40** The Bill **11.40** Pride and Prejudice **6.40** Call the Midwife **8.00** The Red Tent **9.00** FILM: Lady Chatterley's Lover (2015) (15) DH Lawrence adaptation, starring Holliday Grainger. **11.00** Elizabeth I **1.10** The Mrs Bradley Mysteries **2.50** The Red Tent **3.40** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkey Business **9.30** Modern Family **11.00** WWE Raw Hlts **12.00** Guardians of the Galaxy 2: Special **12.30** Football's Funniest Moments **1.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. **2.05** Modern Family **6.00** The Simpsons **7.30** Wild Things **8.30** Carters Get Rich **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Blacklist: Redemption **1.00** Most Daring **2.00** Revolution **3.00** Arrow **4.00** Ninja Warrior

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Fish Town **9.00** The West Wing **1.00** House **3.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Big Little Lies **10.10** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.20** Veep **11.55** The Trip to Spain **12.30** Billions **1.40** Guerrilla **2.45** Westworld **3.50** Girls **4.20** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.10 Beverly Hills Pawn **6.35** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **7.00** Bondi Rescue **8.00** Kolkata with Sue Perkins **9.00** Doctor Who **1.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **5.00** FILM: Ella Enchanted (2004) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Anne Hathaway. **7.00** One Born Every Minute **8.00** Dr Christian Will See You Now **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Ellie Simmonds **10.00** Doctor Foster **11.20** Louis Theroux: Under the Knife **12.20** Louis Theroux's LA Stories **1.40** The Honourable Woman **2.30** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.20 Butterflies **9.00** dinnerladies **1.00** The Interviews **2.00** Marley's Ghosts **2.40** Keeping Up Appearances **3.20** Gavin & Stacey **5.20** The Vicar of Dibley **6.40** Miranda **7.20** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings **10.20** French and Saunders **11.00** Bridget & Eamon **12.10** Nighty Night **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 SPFL Highlights **6.30** Premier League Highlights **8.30** SPFL Highlights **9.00** North London Derby - Boots Are Off **9.30** The Sunday Supplement **11.00** Goals on Sunday **1.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. **2.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Everton v Chelsea (kick-off 2.05pm). **4.15** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal (kick-off 4.30pm). **7.00** EFL Goals **7.30** Spanish Football Gold **7.40** Live La Liga Football. Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao (kick-off 7.45pm). **9.40** Spanish Football Gold **10.00** Premier League Highlights **11.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Premier League Highlights **2.00** Goals on Sunday **3.00** Premier League Highlights **4.30** Goals on Sunday **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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Monday May 1st

BBC1

MasterChef, 7.30pm

10.45 The Wanted (S) **11.30 Claimed and Shamed** (S) **12.00 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News at One; Weather** (S) **1.20 BBC Regional News and Weather** (S) **1.30 The Boss** (S) **2.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.15 Garden Rescue** (S) **4.00 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **5.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is** (S) **5.45 Pointless** (S)(R) **6.30 BBC News** (S) **6.45 BBC Regional News and Weather** (S) **6.55 Party Election Broadcast** (S)(R)

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Matt Baker. (S)
7.30 MasterChef The semi-finals get under way. (S)

8.00 EastEnders Michelle begins her community service. (S)
8.30 FILM Saving Mr Banks (2013) (PG) Fact-based drama, with Emma Thompson. (S)

10.30 BBC News (S)
10.50 BBC Regional News and Weather (S)

11.00 All Round to Mrs Brown's Michael Ball and Sunetra Sarker join Agnes in her sitting room. Last in the series. (S)(R)

AFTER 12
12.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You (S) **12.00** Granada/YTV The Super League Show (S) **12.45** The Graham Norton Show (S)(R) **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.40** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Top Gear, 6pm

6.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets (S)(R) **6.30 Garden Rescue** (S)(R) **7.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is** (S)(R) **8.00 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow** (S)(R) **9.00 FILM The Titfield Thunderbolt (1953) (PG)** (S) **10.25 David Niven: Talking Pictures** (S)(R) **11.10 FILM Around the World in 80 Days (1956) (U)** (S) **2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship** (S) **6.00 Top Gear** (S)(R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship Coverage of the concluding session of this year's final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. (S)

11.00 FILM Margin Call (2011) (15) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Paul Bettany. (S)

12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile (S)(R) **1.35** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby (S)(R) **2.35** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Emmerdale, 7pm

8.30 Lorraine (S) **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (S) **10.30 FILM Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993) (PG)** (S) **12.30 Loose Women** (S) **1.45 ITV Lunchtime News** (S) **1.55 ITV Regional News** (S) **2.00 Judge Rinder** (S) **3.00 Culinary Genius** (S) **4.00 Tipping Point** (S) **5.00 Babushka** (S) **6.00 Off Their Rockers** (S)(R) **6.25 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.45 ITV Evening News;** Weather (S)

7.00 Emmerdale Moira spends all night guarding her cows. (S)
7.30 Coronation Street Tracy assures a hiding Rob that she will explain all to Amy. (S)

8.00 Devon and Cornwall Cops Last in the series. (S)
8.30 Coronation Street Ken and Steve are concerned that Tracy has done a runner with Amy. (S)

9.00 Little Boy Blue A police raid leads to the recovery of the gun used in Rhys Jones's murder, but an unexpected result from tests on the firearm leaves the investigation hanging in the balance. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.19 ITV Regional Weather (S)
10.20 Don't Ask Me Ask Britain Interactive comedy game show hosted by Alexander Armstrong. (S)(R)

11.20 Joanna Lumley's Postcards (S)(R)
11.50 Fishing Impossible The team heads to Norway on a mission to catch a king crab. (S)(R)

12.15 Jackpot247 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R) **3.50 ITV** Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

Alan Carr: Yap, Yap, Yap!, 11pm

7.15 FILM The House of Magic (2013) (U) (S) **8.50 FILM Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (2004) (PG)** (S) **10.35 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.05 The Question Jury** (S)(R) **1.05 Posh Pawnbrokers** (S)(R) **2.10 Countdown** (S) **3.00 Fifteen to One** (S) **4.00 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **5.00 Four in a Bed** (S) **5.30 Extreme Cake Makers** (S) **6.00 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **6.30 Hollyoaks** (S)

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)
7.30 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Vienna Richard Ayoade explores the Austrian capital in the company of Chris O'Dowd. (S)(R)

8.00 Britain's Biggest Hoarders Experts in the field of hoarding disorder spend over three months carefully treating two people. (S)

9.00 The Island with Bear Grylls The lack of food is an ever-pressing concern and tempers begin to fray, with members of the group furious when Phil uses olive oil to boost the fire rather than for food. (S)

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and Chris Addison take on Joe Wilkinson and Katherine Ryan. (S)

11.00 Alan Carr: Yap, Yap, Yap! A stand-up performance filmed at the Hammersmith Apollo. (S)(R)

12.05 Tattoo Fixers (S) **1.00** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners (S)(R) **1.55** Building the Dream (S) **2.50** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **3.45 FILM Raga: A Film Journey into the Soul of India (1971) (PG)** (S) **5.25** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (S)(R)

Channel 5

Police Interceptors, 8pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff 11.15 GPs: Behind Closed Doors (S)(R) **12.05 5 News Lunchtime** (S) **12.10 Home and Away** (S) **12.40 Neighbours** (S) **1.10 FILM Clash of the Titans (1981) (PG)** (S) **3.20 FILM Jason and the Argonauts (1963) (U)** Fantasy adventure, starring Todd Armstrong. (S) **5.30 5 News at 5** (S) **6.00 Neighbours** (S)(R) **6.30 Home and Away** (S)(R)

7.00 FIA World Rally Championship Highlights The Rally Argentina. Highlights of the fifth round of the season; (S) 5 News Update (S)

8.00 Police Interceptors Tim and Tom team up with Merseyside police to raid a house in Liverpool; (S) 5 News Update (S)

9.00 The Miranda Hart Story Profile of the comedian, examining her early years before reaching stardom with her successful sitcom and dramatic role in Call the Midwife. (S)

10.30 The Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of 2016 Celebrities including Louis Walsh, Michelle Visage, Bobby Norris, Kerry Katona and Len Goodman recall the year's memorable events. (S)(R)

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ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6
6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.25** You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Weddings **7.10** Who's Doing the Dishes? **8.00** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **9.35** You've Been Framed! XXL **10.30** FILM: Flubber (1997) (U) **11.30** FYI Daily **11.35** FILM: Flubber (1997) (U) **12.25** Emmerdale **12.55** Coronation Street **2.00** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **2.35** FILM: The Incredible Hulk (2008) (12) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** FILM: The Incredible Hulk (2008) (12) **4.45** FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) (U) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) (U) **6.55** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) **9.00** Family Guy **9.30** The Great Indoors **10.00** American Dad! **11.00** Family Guy **11.30** The Cleveland Show **12.25** Two and a Half Men **1.20** The Great Indoors **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** The Hot Desk: Jonas Blue **2.25** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10
6.00 In Loving Memory **6.25** Heartbeat **7.25** Margery and Gladys **9.30** Judge Judy **10.55** Road to Avonlea **11.55** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **1.05** Heartbeat **2.10** The Royal **3.15** Where the Heart Is **4.20** Tales from Northumberland with Robson Green **4.50** Love Your Garden **5.55** Heartbeat **7.00** Murder, She Wrote **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Rosemary & Thyme **10.00** Law & Order: UK **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10** The Knock **1.45** In Loving Memory **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9
7.00 100 Days; Weather **7.30** Orangutan Diary **8.00** Timeshift: Penny Blacks & Twopenny Blues – How Britain Got Stuck on Stamps **9.00** Amsterdam: An Art Lovers' Guide **10.00** FILM: Girl with a Pearl Earring (2003) (12) **11.30** Harlots, Housewives & Heroines: A 17th Century History for Girls **12.30** Botany: A Blooming History **1.30** The Secret Life of the Motorway **2.30** Amsterdam: An Art Lovers' Guide **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28
6.00 Hollyoaks **6.30** Coach Trip: Road to Marbs **7.00** Melissa & Joey **8.00** Baby Daddy **10.00** How I Met Your Mother **11.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.00** FILM: Astro Boy (2009) (PG) **1.50** Toy Story Toons: Hawaiian Vacation **2.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Moments **7.00** Hollyoaks **7.30** Baby Daddy **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Made in Chelsea **10.00** Empire **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** First Dates **1.00** Gogglebox **2.05** Made in Chelsea **3.00** Empire **3.45** New Girl **4.05** Rules of Engagement **4.45** Melissa & Joey **5.05** Charmed

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14
8.55 Food Unwrapped **9.30** Come Dine with Me **12.05** Four in a Bed **2.40** Walks with My Dog **6.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** It Was Alright in the 1980s **10.05** The 80s: Ten Years That Changed Britain **11.40** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.35** It Was Alright in the 1980s **2.40** Big Fat Gypsy Weddings **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15
11.00 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) (PG) **1.15** A League of Their Own (1992) (PG) **3.50** Short Circuit 2 (1988) (PG) **6.15** The Karate Kid (2010) (PG) **9.00** A Million Ways to Die in the West (2014) (15) **11.15** The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014) (15)

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12
6.00 Home Shopping **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **10.00** Arnie's Greatest Ever Stunts **12.00** FILM: Kelly's Heroes (1970) (PG) **3.10** Top Gear: Burma Special **6.00** Would I Lie to You? **8.00** Top Gear **10.40** Would I Lie to You? **11.20** QI **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40** Reginald D Hunter Live **2.00** Would I Lie to You? **2.40** QI **3.15** Red Dwarf **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20
7.00 Upstairs Downstairs **8.00** Pride and Prejudice **3.00** Death Comes to Pemberley **7.00** The Red Tent **8.00** Inspector Alleyn Mysteries **10.00** New Tricks **11.20** Steptoe and Son **12.00** Death Comes to Pemberley **3.40** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106
6.00 Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** Monkey Life **9.00** It's Me or the Dog **10.00** Nothing to Declare **11.00** Forever **12.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **4.00** Haven **5.00** Modern Family **6.00** Futurama **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Inside the Freemasons **9.00** Micky Flanagan Thinking Aloud **10.00** A League of Their Own US Road Trip **11.00** A League of Their Own **12.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **2.00** Revolution **3.00** Arrow **4.00** Animal House **5.00** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108
6.00 Fish Town **7.00** The Guest Wing **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** The West Wing **11.00** Cold Case **12.00** House **1.00** Blue Bloods **2.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer **3.00** The West Wing **5.00** Cold Case **6.00** House **7.00** Blue Bloods **8.00** 24 Hours in Trump's America **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.00** Silicon Valley **10.35** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.45** FILM: Captivated: The Trials of Pamela Smart (2014) (12) **1.45** Banshee **2.55** Girls **4.05** Storm City **5.00** Fish Town

W SKY: 109
6.10 Countryside 999 **7.00** Inside the Ambulance **2.00** FILM: Free Willy (1993) (PG) **4.15** FILM: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) (U) **6.00** FILM: Get Smart (2008) (12) **8.05** Supernanny US **9.00** The Truth About Magaluf: Stacey Dooley Investigates **10.00** EastEnders **10.40** Dr Christian Will See You Now **11.40** MasterChef USA **12.35** EastEnders **1.15** Code Black **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110
7.00 The Green Green Grass **7.30** Butterflies **8.00** dinnerladies **12.40** Miranda **1.20** Keeping Up Appearances **4.00** The Vicar of Dibley **7.00** Gavin & Stacey **9.00** Absolutely Fabulous **10.00** Live at the Apollo **11.00** Peep Show **11.35** Gimme Gimme Gimme **12.15** Men Behaving Badly **12.50** Shooting Stars **2.00** Live at the Apollo **2.50** Nighty Night **3.20** The Green Green Grass **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401
6.00 Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Premier League 100 Club **10.00** Premier League Daily **11.00** Premier League 100 Club **12.00** Premier League Legends **1.00** Great Sporting Moments **2.00** Premier League Legends **3.00** Spanish Football Gold **3.30** Football Gold **4.00** Football's Greatest Players **5.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **5.30** Darts Gold **6.00** Premier League 100 Club **6.30** Soccer AM: The Best Bits **7.00** Live Monday Night Football. **11.00** Scottish Football Round-Up **11.15** Premier League Legends **11.45** Football Gold **12.00** Monday Night Football: Pre-Match **1.00** Monday Night Football **1.30** Soccer AM: The Best Bits **2.00** Premier League Years **4.00** Sporting Heroes: Dennis Taylor Interviews Ian Woosnam **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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PROPERTY WEEKLY

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This property showcased courtesy of Martin & Co

See inside for the property description

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Conveyancing Quality

Oxford rents rise by 22.6% since 2005

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

The Oxford property market has been particularly fascinating over the last 12 years when we consider what has happened to Oxford rents and house prices.

There's currently much speculation about what will happen to the rental property market during the Brexit negotiation. I believe we must look what happened in the 2008/9 credit crunch (and what has happened since) to judge rationally the possible ramifications for long-term investors in the Oxford property market. An important, yet overlooked measure is the performance of rental income vs house prices (i.e. the resultant yields over time). In Oxford (as for the rest of Great Britain), notwithstanding a slight drop in 2008 and 2009, property rentals have been gradually and consistently increasing.

The income from rentals has been progressively increasing over the last 12 years. Today, they are on average 22.6% higher than they were at the beginning of 2005. In fact, over the last five years, the average growth has been 2.4% per annum. However, the observant readers will be noting that we are ignoring an important factor – our friend inflation.

Turn the clock back to 2005, and take a property being rented for say £900 a month hat is still being rented at £900 a month today, in Spring of 2017. While the landlord is not getting any less income, £900 is no longer worth as much. Let me explain, in 2005, £900 may have bought a two-week 4* holiday in Italy. Yet, holidays have increased in line with inflation (which has been 38.5% since 2005), so our holiday would cost today £1,246 (£900 + 38.5% inflation = £1,246). Therefore, the landlord could no longer afford the same holiday, even though they have the same amount in pound notes from their rental property.

This means, when we compare rents in Oxford to inflation since 2005, Oxford landlords are worse off today, when they receive their monthly rental income, than they were in 2005 by 15.9% in real terms (rents increased by 22.6% since 2005, less the 38.5% inflation since 2005 – net affect 15.9% drop).

However, rental income is not the only way that landlords generate money from property as property values typically increase over time. Although in the short term, cash flows are diminishing, many Oxford landlords will be content to off-set that for the increase in capital value.

Property values in Oxford have risen by 77.3% since 2005

This equates to a very strong 6.44% average increase per annum over the last 12 years. This will make those Oxford landlords and investors feel a little better about the information regarding rents after inflation. 6.44% annual return compares well when considered vs alternative financial investments over the same period.

Looking forward forward, the prospects of making easy money on buy to let in Oxford have diminished.

If you are investing in the Oxford property market, do your homework and do it well. While some yields may look attractive, there are properties in many areas that do not have the solid fundamentals in place to sustain them. If you are looking for capital growth, you might be surprised where the hidden gems really are. Take advice, even ask your agent for a portfolio analysis like I offer my landlords.

For more thoughts on the Oxford Property market – visit the Oxford Property Blog **www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk**

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One-year countdown for landlords to meet energy target begins

Landlords now have just a year to meet a new energy-friendly target for the properties they rent – or face a restriction on granting new tenancies.

In 2016, the government declared that all tenanted properties must achieve a minimum of an E rating in their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Landlords whose buildings fail to reach this standard by April 2018 will no longer be able to offer a tenancy to new tenants.

Those who let properties with an EPC rating below or close to the required rating must ensure works are carried out to bring their homes up to scratch in the next 12 months.

Allison Thompson, managing director at property specialist Leaders, says: "Failure to achieve a minimum of an E rating will leave landlords unable to let a property to a new tenant, while some recent legal updates have suggested they could also be prevented from renewing an existing tenancy.

"As the deadline gets even closer, we expect tradespeople capable of carrying out eco-friendly home improvements to be in extremely high demand, so landlords would be wise to have work carried out sooner rather than later.

"The good news for landlords whose properties fall below the minimum standard is that there are plenty of ways to upgrade a property's energy performance, including adding insulation to the walls and ceiling, draught-proofing, installing a new boiler and repairing or replacing doors and windows."

Thousands of older properties across the UK – particularly those that date back to the Edwardian and Victorian periods – are expected to fail to reach an E rating, making green improvements a must.

Allison adds: "Although some landlords will be required to spend significant sums on improving their homes in the next 12 months, it's worth remembering the benefits of doing so. These include potentially enjoying significantly lower gas and electricity bills for years to come."

Leaders is able to offer support to landlords looking to make eco-friendly home improvements in order to meet the new regulations and can recommend qualified and experienced contractors to carry out work.

For help with any aspect of letting a property contact your local Leaders branch or visit leaders.co.uk.

Bellway launches two show homes at Grove Meadows

Home-hunters have been taking the first look around two eagerly anticipated show homes at a Bellway development in Grove.

The Whitebeam and Harebell show homes are now available to view at Grove Meadows, a development of two, three and four-bedroom homes which is being built on land off Station Road in the village.

Sales and Marketing Director for Bellway Chris Edginton, said feedback from guests who had taken a tour of the new show homes had been overwhelmingly positive.

He said: "Opening a showhome is a landmark point in the lifecycle of any development, and we were delighted to invite the first home-hunters to explore both of our new show homes.

"A lot of hard work goes into the creation of our show homes, from the construction of the homes themselves and the designs that our teams come up with for the interiors, so to receive such positive feedback on the designs is pleasing.

"Both the Whitebeam and the Harebell are great family houses, and represent the character of Grove Meadows particularly well. Modern family living was at the forefront of our minds when we were designing this development, and both of these house types are indicative of this."

The government-backed Help to Buy scheme is available to use at Grove Meadows, which enables prospective buyers to purchase a new home with a five per cent deposit and a 75 per cent mortgage. The remaining 20 per cent is provided in the form of an equity loan, which comes direct from the government, and is interest free for the first five years of home ownership.

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PROPERTY WEEKLY

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Artist's impression

King's Court, Carterton
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Abingdon £280,000

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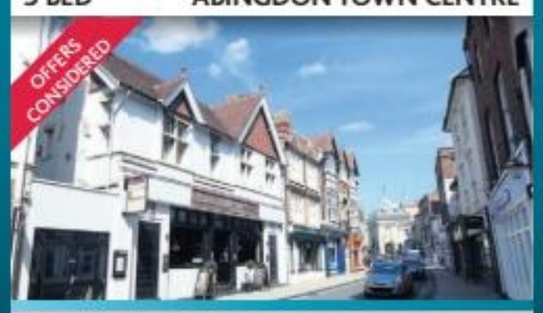

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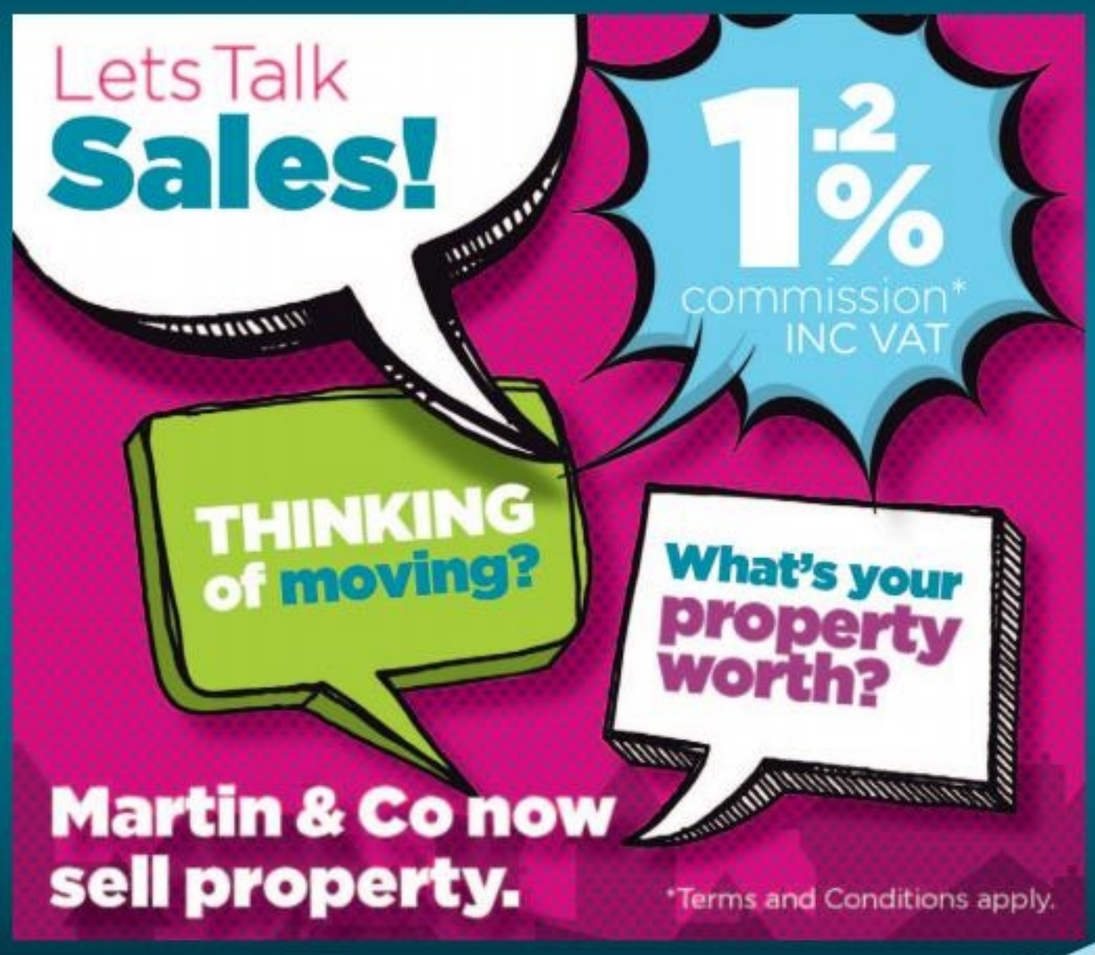

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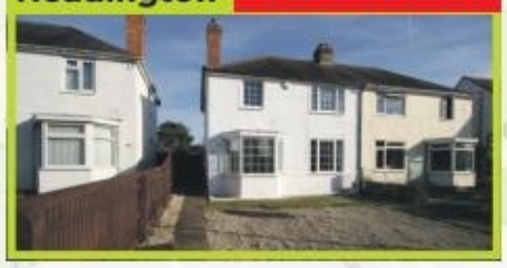

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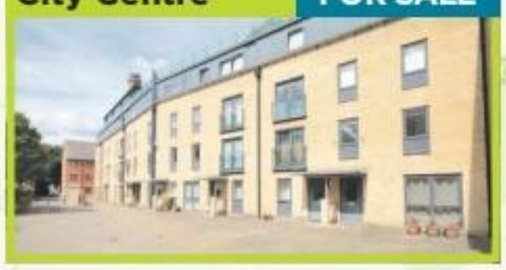

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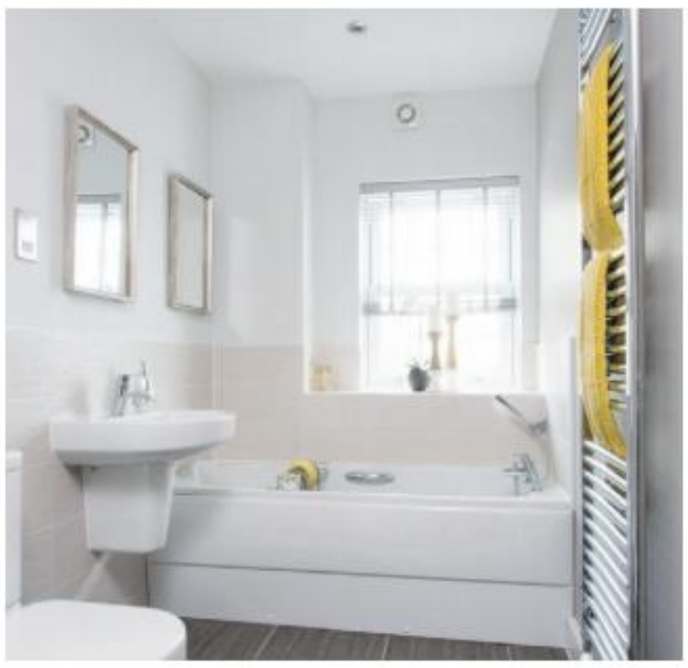
Drawing on their significant and award winning experience, Kier Living creates homes of stature and quality. Each new home at Maple Grove truly distinguishes the development from any other. The thoughtfully designed interiors create truly harmonious living spaces, whilst the carefully crafted exteriors blend effortlessly into the natural surroundings.

The enhanced specification in these homes offer luxurious finishing touches from granite work surfaces, ceramic floor tiles* to oak finish internal doors, integrated washer/dryer and fridge/freezer, fitted wardrobes and en-suite* to master bedrooms. These homes are to be admired.

As you walk around the striking 4 bedroom Eaton show home, you will experience first-hand the beautifully designed home, with all its inclusive features and see the desired lifestyle that you could have with a Kier Living home. Their friendly sales staff are also on hand to help explain or answer any questions you may have.

Additionally, Maple Grove benefits from Kier Living's Part Exchange Scheme** where can you avoid the stress of moving as there are no buyers chains to keep you waiting or estate agent's fees to pay. You are guaranteed that Kier Living will purchase your home once you have accepted the offer made and you can immediately reserve your new Kier Living home. The knowledgeable sales team at Maple Grove can provide you with all of the information you need and guide you through the process step by step.



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Maple Grove is the ideal new development for those looking for their first new home or a larger family home. Their 2 bedroom homes start from £269,995, 3 bedroom homes from £329,995 and their splendid four bedroom homes from just £379,995. The governments Help to Buy** scheme is also available at Maple Grove and prices start from just £215,996.

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Maple Grove is open Thursday to Monday 10am to 5pm
Call: 01793 782400 or 07753 444644
email: maplegrovesales@kier.co.uk
Visit: Maple Grove, off Highworth Road, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire SN6 8BL. **www.kierliving.co.uk**

Internal photographs of the 4 bedroom Eaton Showhome at Maple Grove. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Ceramic floor tiles available on 4 bedroom homes, en-suite available on 3 and 4 bedroom homes and subject to build status. **Available subject to terms. and conditions.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Remembering Absent Friends

By Samantha McGregor

From left, Katie Els, Josh Rush, Anne Lankester, Judith Rogers, Kevin Batch, with Adam Hurst (sitting) in rehearsals

SIR Alan Ayckbourn's comedy Absent Friends is set to be staged by Thame Players next month.

Its cast have been busy putting the finishing touches to this new production, which touches on love, loss, laughter and happiness.

Absent Friends will be staged at The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame from Tuesday, May 9, running until Saturday, May 13.

Absent Friends, is said to be one of the most revealing comedies written by award-winning playwright Ayckbourn.

It was first performed in 1974, and was inspired by an event in Ayckbourn's own life, when he attended a tea party for a woman whose husband had died during their honeymoon.

It tells the story of Colin who has been the absent friend, but returns to his circle of pals after the death of his fiancée Carol, who has drowned.

Diana organises a tea party at the home she shares with husband Paul, and invites old friends John and Evelyn, Gordon and Marge, to cheer Colin up.

But the characters all have relationship issues, which centre on a suspected extra-marital affair, and tensions are bubbling to the surface when Colin arrives.

While the group try to keep matters from erupting, desperately trying to be nice to Colin and get along with each other, Colin is actually blissfully happy in the memory of the time he spent with his fiancée.

As the play unfolds, Colin's arrival eventually triggers a confrontation that can only end in tears.

Brian Holt, directing for Thame Players, said: "We're delighted to be performing one of the best plays by the most prolific dramatist of our times.

"Absent Friends superbly demonstrates Ayckbourn's craftsmanship and acute social observation, with laughter and tears in equal measure."

All performances start at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £9 and £8 (concessions), and are available from Spear Travels, in Greyhound Walk, Thame, by calling 01844 217228 or view thameplayers.co.uk

A cracking gig

MUSIC: Holy Moly & The Crackers will perform at The Old Fire Station on Friday, May 12, at 7.30pm.

Holy Moly & The Crackers are a seven-piece 'Gypsy Folk Rock' ensemble and one of the hardest working bands on the circuit with a growing and loyal fan base.

In 2016 they appeared at 27 festivals, including performances at Glastonbury's Avalon Main Stage, Larmer Tree, Wilderness, Kendal Calling and Towersey.

Festival regulars

MUSIC: SN Dubstation will perform at Fat Lil's, in Witney, on May 26.

SN Dubstation are a lively eight-piece from Swindon who have performed at gigs on the festival circuit all over the UK in 2016 with their fusion of reggae, Ska and dub.

Tickets from wegottickets.com/gloveboxlive or Rapture in Witney.

Fashion show

SHOW: The team behind the Oxford African fashion show have revealed Cllr Rae Humberston, The Deputy Lord Mayor, will be the guest of honour at the event and a food festival on May 6 and 7, at The Tingewick Hall, Headley Way, Oxford.

For information view Eventbrite.co.uk, search for afroshow oxford

ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

No time for sleeping here

By Samantha McGregor

AS anniversaries go band While She Sleeps are celebrating theirs in style, a new album, a tour and going totally independent.

Marking 10 years together While She Sleeps have converted an empty warehouse in the heart of their native Sheffield into a multi-purpose studio and have self-funded their new album 'You Are We' with the help of their fans through a PledgeMusic campaign.

Ahead of their appearance at Oxford's O2 Academy 2 tonight, drummer Adam Savage, known as Sav, talked to the Oxfordshire Guardian about the tour, what fans can expect from the show and the inspiration for their new library.

Asked about playing Oxford's O2 again, Sav said: "We are always stoked to play most places really and Oxford has always been good to us.

"We just want to have an awesome show and hang out after so if Oxford's down with that so are we.

"We put 110 per cent into every show so April 27 will be no different.

"The fans always make it chaos, so it's quite the show for us as well. We've been working really hard on our new set, so there are a couple of new things we haven't done before. But I can't give too much away."

While She Sleeps' new album was released earlier this week. Sav explained the inspiration came from their "own experiences".

He said: "We've had our ups and downs but always managed to stay true and stick together to get through the tough times.

"Brainwashed was more of an angry political album, I feel You Are We is more of a positive spin to the same situations we always sing about just with a different perspective and thought behind it."

The band's previous two albums have been well received by fans, we asked Sav why he thought people liked their music, and for him its lyrics and live shows.

He said: "We feel like we have some form of platform to speak the truth and we have a responsibility to honour that.

"We also give all we have to every live show which I think is the best way to see what a band is about."

"Hearing a room full of sweaty people shout your lyrics back at you. Sitting right at the back of the room playing drums is THE best seat in the house, I get to see my dudes rock out then a sea of fans going ape to our music. It's so awesome."

Welcome to Cafe

OXFORD: Up and coming indie band The Night Café will headline the Bullingdon, in Oxford, on May 2.

It comes after performances on the BBC Introducing Stage at T in the Park last summer and the release of their debut EP Get Away From the Feeling

Having grown up in the same area of Liverpool and separately developed a love for playing music while at secondary school, Sean, Josh, Arran and Carl were introduced by mutual friends.

Enjoy Joe's songs

OXFORD: After two sell-out years on the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, singer, pianist and entertainer Joe Stilgoe brings his act to Oxford.

Called Songs on Film, the show is on for one night only on Tuesday, May 9, where Joe brings alive memorable moments in cinematic history.

Accompanied by his band, Joe performs songs written for and inspired by some of the greatest films of the last century, featuring music from Hollywood's golden age, to the classic films of the 1980s, to the work of Tarantino, Tati, Paramount and Pixar.

Tickets from the box office on 01865 305305 or at oxfordplayhouse.com

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Win tickets for prog rock legend

FORMER Genesis guitarist and prog legend Steve Hackett is back on tour and you can catch him at Oxford's New Theatre next month.

It's 40 years since Hackett recorded his last studio album with Genesis before leaving the band to embark on his highly successful solo career.

Now Steve and his incredible band celebrate his album Wind and Wuthering's 40th anniversary by treating audiences to tracks from the album.

The show features more Genesis gems, including fan favourites such as 'The Musical Box', as well as Genesis tracks 'Inside & Out' (released on an EP shortly after Wind & Wuthering) and 'One for the Vine' which have never been performed by Steve and his band until now.

And you can be among those to experience the music as we are offering the chance to win a pair of tickets to the New Theatre on May 13.

Steve's brilliance is not limited to his years with Genesis and the show will include plenty of 'Classic Hackett' from his remarkable solo catalogue, including popular hits such as 'The Steppes', 'Serpentine', 'Every Day' and the first ever live performance of 'Rise Again' from his 1999 album Darktown. Steve will also be introducing fans to music from his new studio album The Night Siren.

Steve said: "I'm thrilled to bring my latest show of Genesis and Hackett numbers to the UK, adding additional numbers such as 'One for the Vine' and celebrating the 40th anniversary of 'Wind and Wuthering', one of my favourite Genesis albums and popular with Genesis fans the world over."

To win the tickets just tell us the name of Steve Hackett's album which is celebrating its 40th anniversary?

Email your answer to news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk to reach us by 5.30pm on May 4. Put Steve Hackett competition in the subject line.

A photograph with your fish and chips?

A PHOTOGRAPHER who has captured his subjects against a rather unusual backdrop is putting his work on show.

Well known in the East Oxford community, Kazem Hakimi has been taking photographs for 30 years.

But for the past two years he has been working specifically on the OX4 project presented in these exhibitions.

Hakimi has recorded his community by posing his customers against the same white wall at the back of his fish and chip shop on the Iffley Road in East Oxford.

Kazem Hakimi was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1960, and moved to Oxford in the 1980s and studied Civil Engineering at Oxford Polytechnic, however, he spent most of his time in the Photography department.

Emma Ridgway, head of programme at Modern Art Oxford said: "We are delighted to be working with Kazem Hakimi on this important exhibition.

"His dignified photographic portraits capture trust, warmth and compassion. It is also inspiring that he creates these excellent portraits while running a full-time business, using his chip shop as his photographic studio.

The exhibition is across two sites, The Old Fire Station, in George Street, and Modern Art Oxford, in Pembroke Street from May 6 to July 2

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Thu, Apr 27
O2 Academy, Oxford
WHILE SHE SLEEPS

Fri, Apr 28, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
TINARIWEN
Grammy Award-winning Tinariwen will be returning to O2 Academy Oxford in spring. The Malian guitar heroes, influenced by American blues and the likes of Jimi Hendrix, were discovered in the 90's. They travelled the world with their songs - charged with poetry and aching beauty.

Fri, Apr 28
O2 Academy, Oxford
FABIO & GROOVERIDER 25 YEARS OF DRUM AND BASS

Fri, Apr 28 – Sat, Apr 29
The New Theatre, Oxford
MY FIRST BALLET: CINDERELLA
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Fri, Apr 28
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
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Sat, Apr 29
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
SPANISH NIGHT
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Sat, Apr 29
The Beacon, Wantage
TROLLS
DreamWorks' hilarious animation filled with music, heart and hair-raising adventures! From the genius creators of SHREK, TROLLS stars Anna Kendrick as Poppy, the optimistic leader of the Trolls, and her polar opposite, Branch, played by Justin Timberlake.

Sat, Apr 29
O2 Academy, Oxford
CHASING DAYLIGHT
If Ian Dury had awoken one morning from uneasy dreams to find himself transformed into a cross between Wilko Johnson and Poly Styrene, he would have been Chasing Daylight singer and guitarist Julian Sharples. With original songs that channel late 1970s ska, punk and pure Canvey Island R'n'B, Chasing Daylight honour these heroes of their youth.

Sat, May 6
O2 Academy, Oxford
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Wed, May 3
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
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New Theatre, Oxford
SHOWADDYWADDY
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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Tue, Apr 28 – Sat, Apr 22
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
PYGMALION

of which reached number one in the pop charts of Europe. Under The Moon of Love, Three Steps to Heaven, Hey Rock & Roll, When, Blue Moon, Pretty Little Angel Eyes and many, many more.

Sat, May 6
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
OPERA COCKTAIL
These popular tunes are performed by a quartet of singers accompanied by a virtuosic pianist and are woven together into a romantic comedy of errors – think Bridget Jones goes to the opera – which will surprise, delight and entertain.

Sat, May 6
O2 Academy, Oxford
WARD THOMAS
Chart toppers Ward Thomas return to the stage for a full UK tour, including their biggest headline shows to date. 22-year-old twins Catherine and Lizzy made history with their stunning major label debut, Cartwheels, when it topped the UK album charts, becoming the first-ever UK country act to achieve the feat.

Mon, May 8, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Acclaimed stars of the West End stage, the Reduced Shakespeare Company are back with another barnstormingly irreverent and breathtakingly hilarious celebration of our cultural heritage – as seen through the eyes of three Americans wearing trainers.

Tue, May 9
O2 Academy, Oxford
J HUS
Taken from his anticipated debut album, J Hus has just dropped his new single, 'Did You See'. Nominated for Best Newcomer at The MOBO Awards in 2015, the rapper has spent 2017 collaborating with Dave, Nines' and Stormzy.

Tue, May 9
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE JAPANESE HOUSE
Recently longlisted for BBC Music Sound Of 2017, Amber Bain aka The Japanese House tours in support of her third EP, Swim Against the Tide.

Wed, May 10, 8pm
New Theatre, Oxford
RUSSELL BRAND – RE: BIRTH
Following a series of sold-out preview shows, Russell Brand is coming to a venue near you as part of his new stand-up tour of the UK and Ireland.

Sat, May 13, 11pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE OXFORD SOUL TRAIN
Welcome aboard The Oxford Soul Train. A night train taking you on an uplifting journey filled with funk, soul, disco and motown classics, leading you along the tracks and grooves with those licks of hard hitting horns, punchy rhythms and storming beats!

Thu, May 11
The Beacon, Wantage
OBSESSION
Jude Law (The Young Pope, Closer, The Talented Mr Ripley) stars in the stage production of Obsession, broadcast live from the Barbican Theatre in London. Ivo van Hove (NT Live: A View from the Bridge, Hedda Gabler) directs this new stage adaptation of Luchino Visconti's 1943 film.

Fri, May 12
O2 Academy, Oxford
END OF AN ERA

Sat, May 13
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
KATY BRAND – I WAS A TEENAGE CHRISTIAN
Katy Brand's hit Edinburgh Festival

COMEDY

show I Was a Teenage Christian is an honest, fascinating and funny exploration of her self-imposed conversion and total immersion in evangelical Christianity.

Sun, May 14
New Theatre, Oxford
PAUL RODGERS
Paul Rodgers legendary singer, songwriter and frontman for Free, Bad Company and The Firm has announced that he will be heading out across the UK this May on the FREE Spirit Tour performing songs strictly from the Free catalogue.

Mon, May 15 – Sat, May 20
The New Theatre, Oxford
SISTER ACT
Sister Act tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes a surprising turn

when she witnesses a murder. Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a Convent! Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

Thu, May 16, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE COMET IS COMING
The Comet Is Coming support their Mercury-nominated debut album, Channel the Spirits. The band's intoxicating sound fuses elements of jazz, funk, electronica and psychedelic rock.

Advertorial

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Some facts that make this vegetable EVEN better to enjoy now that we have our own grown Asparagus available in the Farm Shop at Millets Farm:

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- Fresh asparagus are rich sources of folates. 100 g of spears provide about 54 µg or 14% of RDA of folic acid. Folates are one of the important co-factors for DNA synthesis inside the cell.
- Its shoots are also rich in B-complex group of vitamins such as thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B-6 (pyridoxine), and pantothenic acid.
- Asparagus is good in minerals, especially copper and iron. In addition, it has small amounts of some other essential minerals and electrolytes such as calcium, potassium, manganese, and phosphorus.

Asparagus should be eaten as soon as posvsible after harvesting. Otherwise, it soon loses sweetness since most of its sugar converts into starch.

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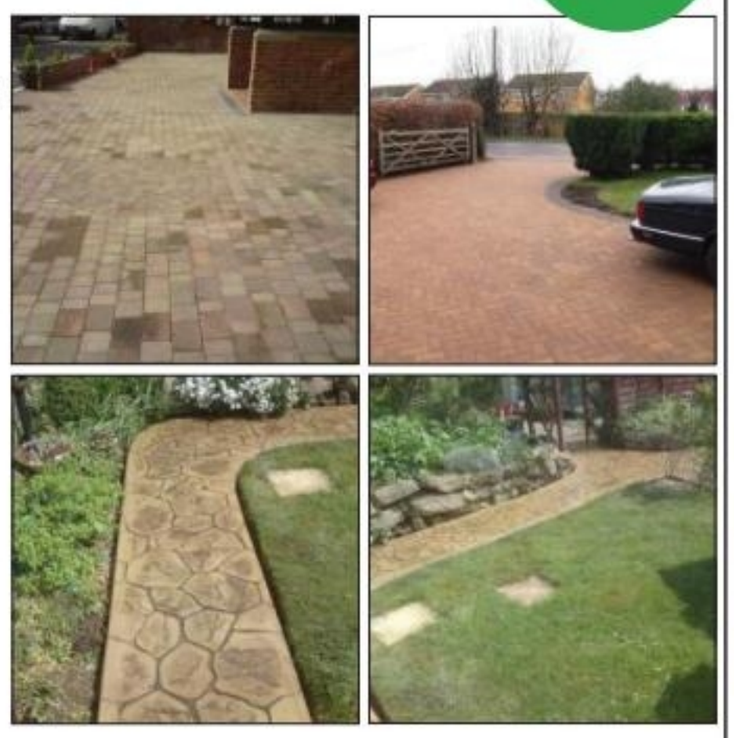

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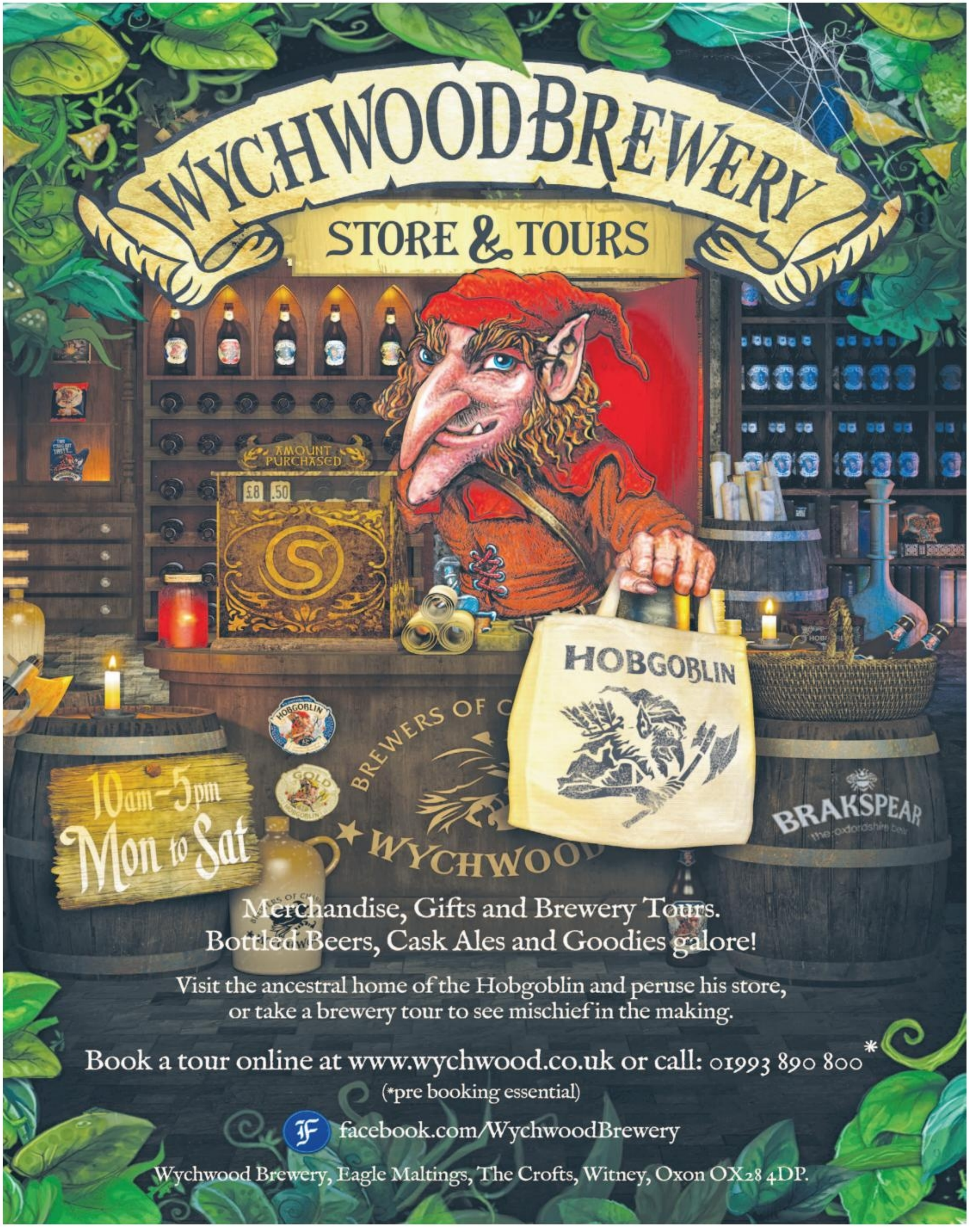
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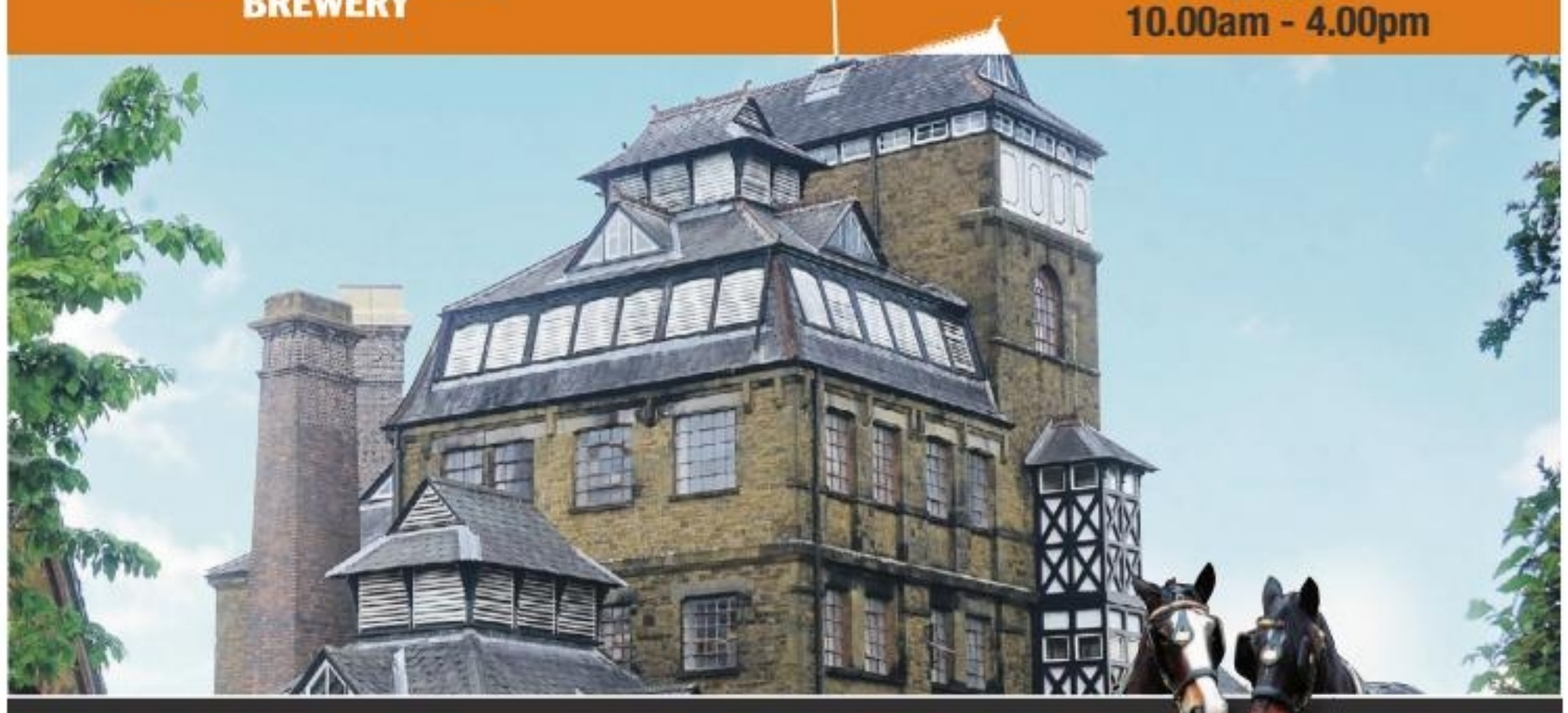

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We offer guided brewery tours through our 5 storey Victorian Tower Brewery where you will learn all about the traditional methods we still use to make our beer. The tour ends with a tutored tasting of our core beer range plus whichever crafty ale is on the bar.

We have a brewery shop selling beer, artisan gifts and merchandise and a cafe serving light bites and teas and coffee's.

Within the main brewery building we have our Micro Brewery which enables us to produce one off, limited edition crafty ales. You can even book a day with our brewer and brew your very own Hooky beer!

Keeping traditions alive we still use our four shire horses Nelson, Major, Lucas and Winston to carry out weekly dray deliveries to our local pubs in and around Hook Norton.

It's a passion that every generation shares, it's our ambition, it's our commitment, it's our way of life. This is how we make award winning ale. This is Hook Norton Brewery.

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Who Cares?

Advertising Feature

Experience and wisdom that comes from living your life

The older generation may not have the external beauty of young skin and lithe waistlines captured on television, in magazines and just strolling down the street in every one of Oxfordshire's towns and villages. Instead however, they have a beauty of a different kind, an experience and wisdom that comes from living your life, and the evidence of this shows on their faces, giving hints of the past making them interesting – which is more interesting to paint than youth, according to local portrait artists taking part in the Oxfordshire Artweeks festival across the county next month (6-29th May). And portraits are all about capturing a person's personality in that moment that's recorded on canvas as a sitter's look will have changed as the years have passed and will change again – but their personality won't!

One of the most elegant pictures to grace the walls of any of the hundreds of exhibitions welcoming you in is possibly the big painting of portrait painter Ruth Swain's mother-in-law, Gill Swain. 'Gill was very bright and very clever,' says Ruth. 'She read all the time and loved literature. She was also extremely glamorous. She loved Elizabeth Taylor, and when she was the image of her, she really was! She died in 2014 – in her later years she had breast cancer and Parkinson's and she was also the primary carer for her husband so she often stayed with us for a bit of respite which is when I painted her amongst the cushion as she read. Because of the Parkinson's, I had to keep propping her back up, and we laughed about it together. Even then she was still elegant and had terrific poise. She wasn't a beauty any more but she still had it, and you can see that in the painting.'

Ruth enjoys painting people who are in their later year – 'I enjoy the puzzle of someone's past' she explains. I've also painted a lady, April, who lives on my lane in Sutton Courtenay and was a soprano singer when she was in her prime. She's wearing her anorak, glasses, and bobble hat in the picture but that doesn't change the spark in her eyes even though she isn't on stage any more in a glittering gown. This portrait is even bigger than the picture of Gill, but then there's a lot of experience to fit into a picture of someone who's really lived!'

And there are also two octogenarian artists taking part in Artweeks who are still cramming their experience into their art work and hosting solos exhibitions of their past and current pictures. Eighty-six year old Ann Crawford in Culworth near Banbury is inspired by animals, mythology and the circus and makes hand-made prints that show the scenes from her imagination, whilst Jeff Lies in Oxford's Summertown, a mere spring-chicken at eighty, is exhibiting a lifetime of work from landscapes to abstract paintings created in response to classical music. For these he has developed a painting technique in which he deliberately channels the right hand side of the brain which is the seat of creativity. After all, you're never too old to learn something new!

Esther Lafferty,Day and Nightcare Assistance.

Day and Nightcare Assistance are proud to be sponsoring, for the fourth time, partially-sighted artist Susan Ryan's Artweeks exhibition which you can see in Chadlington Church, venue 248 (13th-21st May).

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Skoda Yeti Outdoor SE L Drive – 2.0 TDi SCR 150PS 4x4

Yeti can handle great outdoors

By **Tony Yates**

FOR those needing a sturdy and versatile car that can handle outdoor living with no fuss, then the Skoda Yeti Outdoor is the one for you.

Since its launch, the Yeti has touched the hearts of many SUV enthusiasts – and won a whole host of awards such as Auto Express Driver Power customer satisfaction survey 2012, 2013 and 2015.

Power and efficiency

My test car was fitted with a 150PS 2.0-litre diesel engine. It's performance is not mind blowing but it does get a move on. Nought to 62mph comes in around 9.1sec and you can expect fuel consumption figures to easily reach 55.5mpg combined, plus low CO2 emissions of134g/km. Top speed is around 121mph.

On the road

I was really impressed by how the Yeti dealt with the lumps and bumps on our roads. This is the 4x4 version, which basically means it handles like a hot hatch into the corners and feels very controlled and steady when pushed to its limits.

But, I do feel the Yeti needs to give the driver a bit more feedback through the steering.

Overtaking is not too much of a problem if you are in the right gear. Ultimately, though, the Yeti is more about being a practical family SUV, with the comfort and stability of a 4x4.

Safety & technology

Inside, the Yeti looks great and has a nicely trimmed cabin, which is something Skoda has worked on a lot over time.

Rear leg room is good and the Yeti will easily accommodate a large family with ease. The quality and feel inside the cabin is very good and if you really wanted to take the Yeti on an off-road drive you can be assured that nothing will fall off or break thanks to Skoda's excellent build quality.

The level of standard equipment on the SE L Drive version starts with duel zone air conditioning, MP3 connection, cruise control, curtain airbags (front, passenger, side and knee airbags) heated front seats and heated front screen.

There are also daytime running lights, LED rear lights, front and rear parking sensors, 17-inch Origami alloy wheels, Amundsen satellite navigation with DAB, silver roof rails and Maxi-DOT trip computer.

To sum up

The Yeti Outdoor is perfect for anyone looking for a family vehicle that has rugged looks, exceptional safety features and some very clever technology, meaning it is more than capable of handling most off-road situations, slippery roads or rough ground with ease. If I was in the market right now then the Skoda Yeti Outdoor makes perfect sense to me.

Price: £26,100 OTR (excluding extras).

Rugged looks – the Skoda Yeti Outdoor is a very capable car off road

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OUR PRICE **£11,721.07**

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SAVE **£2,233** AGAINST MRRP

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- Front fog lights with chrome surround
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Zetec Edition 1.0T EcoBoost 125ps 5dr

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Small cars

15 15 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 ECOFLEX SRI PETROL 5DR, met grey, 1 owner, fsh, 23K **£8,295**

12 12 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC TDCI 5DR, blue,1 owner, fsh, 19k ..... WASS £7,495 **NOW £7,295**

12 62 MINI ONE 1.6 PEPPER PACK 3DR, Black with orange bonnet stripes with orange detailing, fsh, 40K **£7,495**

14 64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI SXI ECOFLEX, met grey, fsh, 18k..... **£6,995**

14 64 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI VTR PLUS 5 DOOR, red, fsh, 21k, ... **£6995**

16 16 MG3 STYLE 1.5 VTI-TECH 5DR, met silver, 1 owner, Fsh, 8k, ... **£6,995**

13 13 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N-TEC PETROL 5DR, met black with full black leather, 1 owner, fsh, only 15k miles..... **£6,995**

11 11 MAZDA 2 TS2 AUTO, met silver, fsh, 48k..... WAS £5,995 **NOW £5,695**

11 11 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, met black, sh, 60k..... **£5,995**

12 62 NISSAN NOTE 1.5 ACENTA DCI 5DR, red, 1 owner, Fsh, 73K **£5,695**

14 14 CITROEN C1 1.0 EDITION 5 DOOR, red, fsh, 32k **£5,695**

06 56 SMART CITY PASSION 0.7 AUTO 3DR, full leather & panoramic roof, sh, 23k **£2,995**

10 10 CHEVROLET AVEO 1.2 S 5DR, met blue, SH, 50k **£2,995**

Estate

12 12 MERCEDES C200 CDI BLUEEFFICIENCY SE, met grey with full grey leather, fsh, 38k..... **£12,995**

13 13 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI TOURER TECHLINE, met blue, fsh, 66k ..... WAS £8,995 **NOW £8,495**

13 63 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI, white, fsh, 38k **£7,995**

13 13 CHEVROLET CRUZE 1.6 LT 5DR, met black, fsh, 56k... **£5,495**

7 Seater / MPV

13 62 MAZDA CX-5 D 2.2 SPORT MANUAL 5DR, white with full black leather, fsh, 73k..... **£12,995**

12 62 FORD GALAXY 2.0 ZETEC TDCI 7 SEATER, met silver, fsh, 48k..... WAS £12,495 **NOW £11,995**

13 63 NISSAN QASHQAI +2 1.6 DCI SPECIAL EDITION 5DR, met grey with full black leather, 1 owner, Fsh, 75K..... **£10,995**

14 14 FORD GRAND C-MAX 1.0 ECOBOOST TITANIUM 7 PETROL 5DR, Red, 1 owner, Fsh, 49K..... **£10,295**

08 58 FORD GALAXY 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, Met grey, sh, 83k **£6,495**

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12 12 MAZDA CX-5 2.2D SPORT NAV 5DR, met blue with full black leather, Fsh, 95K..... **£10,995**

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16 66 MG GS 1.5T EXCLUSIVE AUTO PETROL, white with full black leather, 2300 miles, ex demo, 5 years 0% finance with 30% deposit..... **£17,495**

15 64 MERCEDES A180 1.6 BLUEEFFICIENCY SE, met grey, fsh, only 1500 miles..... **£15,495**

10 60 AUDI TT 2.0 TFSI QUATTRO 3DR, Black with full black leather seats, 4WD, Fsh, 52K **£12,995**

12 62 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 TDI SALOON, black, fsh, 50k..... WAS £12,495 **NOW £11,995**

10 60 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER D 5DR, red, 1 owner, Fsh, 29k **£8,995**

13 63 ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6 JTDM 2 LUSSO 5DR, red, fsh, 1 owner, 48k ..... WAS £8,995 **NOW £8,295**

13 63 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE PETROL AUTO 5DR, red with half black leather, 1 owner, Fsh, 21k **£8,295**

14 14 FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCI BUSINESS EDITION 5 DOOR, met blue, fsh, 79k **£7,995**

09 59 BMW 120D MSPORT 5DR, Met blue with half leather seats, fsh, 73K **£7,995**

14 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 VTI DSTYLE PLUS PETROL 3DR, white, 1 owner, SH, 48k..... **£7,495**

12 62 KIA CEED 1.4 CRDI 1 5 DOOR, white,fsh,91k **£6,295**

10 59 AUDI A3 2.0 SPORTBACK TDI SPORT 5DR, met blue, fsh, 138k ..... WAS £5,995 **NOW £5,495**

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MOT: Aug 2017
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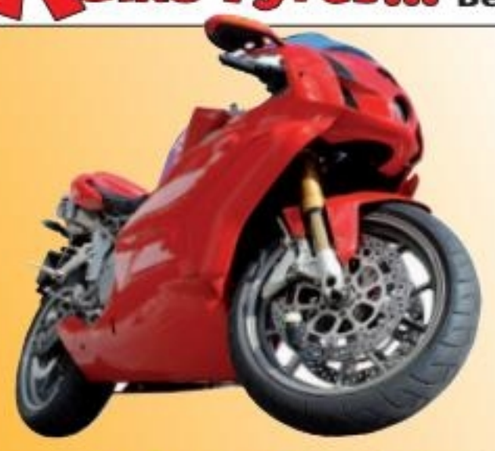

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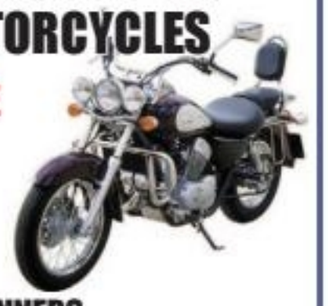

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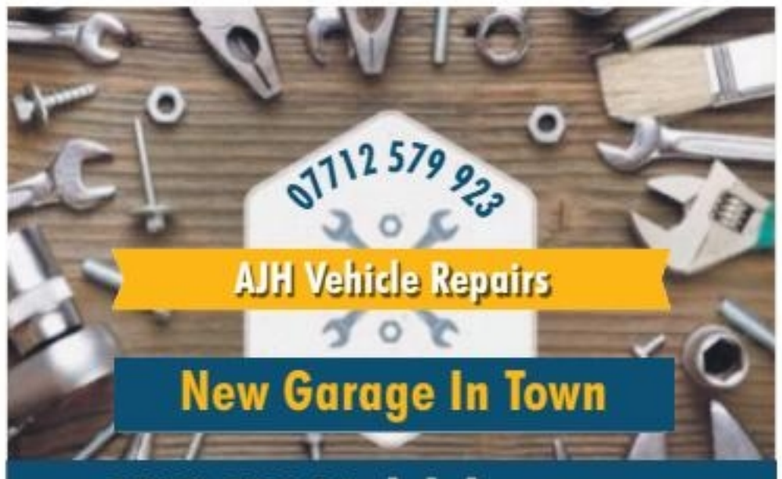

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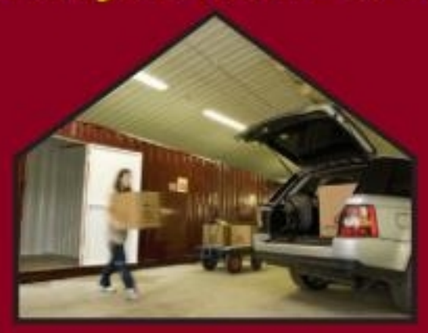

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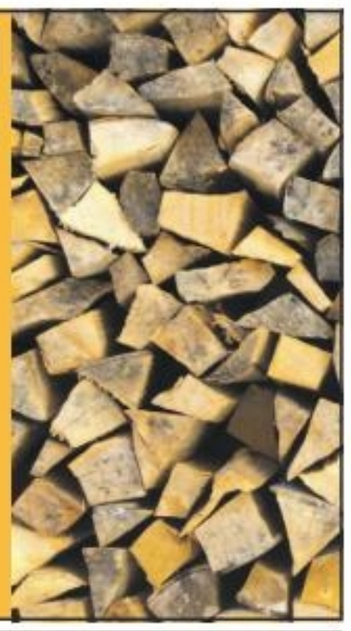

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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

NIAMH, 45, slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426333**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

SHARON, 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426319**

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JENNY, 40, very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426299**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426251**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

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TARA, 43, charismatic, optimistic Irish entrepreneur, sensual, attractive, intelligent, seeks genuine male to spoil, enjoy good times and let just take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426123**

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GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426345**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426343**

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196**

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PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no timewasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

KAREN, 52yrs, attractive with GSOH, very active and outgoing. If you are 40+ give me a call, lets have a chat, maybe meet up. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426339**

CAROLINE, attractive mature lady, various interests, hoping to meet a smart gent for socialising, perhaps leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426347**

KATH, 41, slim, petite size 10, hardworking attractive, OHAC, seeking loving romantic guy to enjoy cosy nights in cuddling up with a DVD and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426217**

CARMEL, blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426159**

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426077**

GILLY, 48, green-eyed nurse, red hair, very naughty, seeks male to care for. I would love to take your temperature! **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425667**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425341**

ELEGANT, sensitive, N/S lady, seeks solvent, employed gent, 55-66yrs, for days out, art, cinema, walks, theatre, friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 4622552**

DEBBIE, 43, dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425909**

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KEN, mature, 58, genuine, white, curious male, WLTM white single or widowed lady, 65-75, mature and genuine, for friendship and fun times in private. If you would like a toy boy who is genuine and down to earth, strange request but true, give me a call! **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425603**

MID 70s old fashioned gent, solvent, not used to computers and mobiles, enjoys eating out, sports, travel, classical music etc, seeks the company of a neglected, married, European lady, 25-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426453**

GOOD looking athletic male, 30s, with brown hair/blue eyes seeks woman for fun times. **Text only. Mailbox: 5792232**

CARING loving guy looking for a lady to enjoy good times with. **Text only. Mailbox: 5783640**

FRIENDLY funny male, affectionate, 6ft, dark hair, green eyes, 51, seeking affectionate woman, similar age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426279**

SOLVENT, tactile, mid 70s gent, n/s, in Bucks, looking for unappreciated married European lady, 25-65, for discreet no strings entertainment. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 426445**

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Smith finishes outside points

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith finished just outside the points at the third MotoGP race of the season in Texas.

Sunday's race was frustrating for the Red Bull KTM team.

Smith, from Forest Hill, finished 15.543secs behind Pull&Bear Aspar Team rider Alvaro Bautista, who picked up the final point at the Circuit of the Americas.

The 26-year-old's teammate Pol Espargaro retired mid race after experiencing clutch problems, meaning it was another steep learning curve for the KTM team as they tackle their first season in the premier class.

They had to combat tyre problems but, for the third successive race, the Oxfordshire rider accumulated valuable full-race data for his team.

Smith said: "It was a tricky day with tyre choice. When the sun came out we were a bit worried about whether the soft tyre would really work and we had done the majority of our work on that tyre choice.

"The hard tyre was okay when we had grip but then we had problems when it slowly disappeared.

"I was a bit nervous when I saw Pol's bike smoking and after that I just tried to look after the bike and the tyres.

"In the end I just tried to finish the 21 laps to get some important information for the team."

Gibbins ton pulls off unlikely win

Cricket

A STUNNING 125 from Alistair Gibbins helped Bicester & North Oxford chase down a daunting 260 against Twyford.

Bicester were playing the Cherwell League Division One side in a 45 over pre-season friendly at home and triumphed by four wickets in the clash on Saturday.

Gibbins and Steve Lewis (73) put on a 160-run partnership to rescue the hosts from 47-4 with Ryan Moore (14 not out) and Dannt Clark (8 not out) seeing BNOCC home.

Earlier, Twyford had been asked to bat and got off to a steady start through Tanveer Nadeem (47) and Freddie Wilkinson (34) after losing an early wicket.

The Twyford middle-order ground out runs and really upped the rate in the last 10 overs to post their tricky total.

In reply, BNOCC got off to a bad start, losing both openers cheaply off the bowling of Tom Weynes.

Nick Moorman was sent packing for 13 and Oliver Ward followed with five. Warwick Bradfield and Dan Murphy were dismissed by Warner and Bone respectively to leave BNOCC reeling at 47-4.

But when Gibbins and Lewis came together in the 15th over they set about bringing some stability and increased the scoring rate.

By the time Lewis was given out LBW and Gibbins finally caught and bowled off a leading edge, their hard work had got BNOCC over the line.

That left Moore and Clark to steer them safely home.

Nico Hulkenberg scored two points in Bahrain. Picture: Renault Sport Formula One Team

Renault pick up the pace

By Adam Flinn

F1

THERE is increased optimism from Renault heading into this weekend's Russian Grand Prix after getting their first points of 2017 last time out in Bahrain.

The Enstone-based team showed good pace throughout the weekend, getting both cars into the top 10 in qualifying for the first time since 2015.

This translated into a ninth-place finish for Nico Hulkenberg, although the team might have expected to have got more out of the race.

Russia was one of the few places last season where Renault scored points and chief technical officer Bob Bell believes the team has taken a clear step forward already since the start of the season.

He said: "We head to Sochi with a reasonable degree of optimism.

"We have shown a good progression so far in 2017, most notably illustrated by qualifying both cars in the top 10 for the first time in Bahrain as well as securing our first points finish. There's no doubt we have work still to do.

"Equally it's clear we've taken a tangible step forward."

Hulkenberg has never finished in the points in the three times Formula One has been to Russia.

He is keen to put that right, saying: "I haven't had the greatest amount of luck in Sochi, so it would be great to score my first points there.

"I think we made good progress to enable us to improve our race pace for Sochi when we were testing in Bahrain and we have some new bits for the car to facilitate this too.

"Of course, the Sochi Autodrom is a completely different circuit, so we can't accurately predict our relative performance until we get there, but I'm feeling positive."

Team-mate Jolyon Palmer has only raced at Sochi in Formula One once, but it is where he wrapped up his GP2 title in 2014 with a win.

He said: "I have very good memories of Russia.

"We've seen that the track can start with pretty low grip levels at the beginning of the weekend.

"But it will be interesting to see how the extra downforce of 2017 copes with that.

"Last year we struggled to get the car where we wanted in qualifying, but we went better in the race."

Steiner: It's as tight as ever

WILLIAMS and Haas will be looking to build on their strong results from Bahrain when they head to Russia for this weekend's race in Sochi.

Felipe Massa had what he described as a "great day" in Bahrain to bring his Williams home in sixth, after fighting with the faster front-running cars in the early stages.

Romain Grosjean also finished in the points for Haas, ending in eighth for his first top 10 result of the season.

Haas team principal Guenther Steiner said: "It's as tight as it's ever been, with four to five teams so close together.

"Every weekend it's mixed up in a different way. Any of these teams can go into Q3 and get into the points.

"It's a very tense battle, but I think a nice battle and it keeps the constructors' championship pretty open for the midfield."

Williams are currently fifth with 16 points while Haas are seventh on eight points.

Felipe Massa Picture: Williams Martini Racing

Club manager's delight as young amateur joins pros

Didcot's Nicholas Elmey

Golf

A TEENAGE amateur golfer from Didcot is celebrating after making the 2017 EuroPro Tour.

Frilford Heath member Nicholas Elmey's card of +3 at a qualifying competition at the south Oxfordshire golf club was enough to cement his place.

The 18-year-old's T72 finish in the final stage of qualifying on home turf against 240 other golfers earlier this month was high enough to open the door to the next stage of his career.

Frilford Heath's proud general manager, Russell Stebbings said: "It was a pleasure to see our very own Nick Elmey gain a category for the tour and we look forward to supporting them at the IFX Championship EuroPro tour event next month."

The EuroPro Tour, which began yesterday at The Lookers Championship in Newcastle, is the European Tour's satellite in the UK and Ireland and aims to develop up and coming players.

It also offers direct access to the Challenge Tour, a professional second-tier competition.

Stebbings added: "We were delighted to host this event again in 2017 and very lucky with the quality of the field playing.

"The weather was on our side and the golfers made the most of it with some fantastic scores – in particular Jamie McCleary who won the event on a fantastic -10."

Elmey is up against some stiff competition, namely from one of the favourites, former European Tour player McCleary.

The 35-year-old has two career wins to his name, most recently winning on the Challenge Tour in 2015.

Hoops, they did it again

By George Welch

Oxford City

TEMPORARY Oxford City boss Mark Jones boosted his chance of securing the job on a full time basis after picking up the Hoops' third win and clean sheet on the bounce.

Veteran striker Jefferson Louis was the match winner in the last home game of the season as City beat already-relegated Margate, who were reduced to 10 men in the second half, at Court Place Farm on Saturday.

Louis, 38, scored two minutes before half time with an improvised finish, hooking the ball over his shoulder and beyond the helpless keeper to score the only goal of the game.

Despite being the league's second lowest scorers, Margate still threatened the City goal and Michael Thalassitis had the Gate's best chance when he burst clear of the defence just before half time.

But with Oxford stopper Craig Hill quickly off of his line to narrow the angle, the forward found himself robbed at the last second by a backtracking George Essuman.

Things got worse for the English-born Cypriot who received his marching orders on 50 minutes for two yellow cards just 30 seconds apart.

With the visitors reduced to 10 men, the game slowed.

Striker Jefferson Louis scored the winner against Margate Picture: Michael Allen

After a quiet second half Jones admitted the game was far from the best fans had seen this season but was happy with the win.

He said: "It was nice to finish the last home game of the season with a win.

"It certainly wasn't a classic and had a bit of an end of season feel but we got the job done.

"I thought we were the better side and created a few chances in the first half but when they went down to 10 men I would have hoped we would push on and get a couple more."

City's last game of the season at Ebbsfleet United on Saturday could be more entertaining as their hosts can still pip league leaders Maidenhead United to the National League South title.

Jones said: "It's three wins on the spin now, three clean sheets and its going to be a great game at Ebbsfleet.

"They've won against Maidenhead [on Saturday] so they will be going all out to beat us.

"It will be a great atmosphere with a crowd of at least a couple of thousand and a good surface to play on."

Matt Cruse celebrates one of his goals

Ardley Cruse into final

Ardley United

ARDLEY United are preparing for the Supplementary Cup final after beating nine-man Bicester Town on Saturday.

United's 3-0 win against their local rivals and tenants was a little harsh on Bicester, who use the Playing Fields as a temporary home and play a tier below in the Hellenic Division One East.

Midfielder Matt Cruse bagged a brace with goals in both halves on 21 and 77 minutes. They sandwiched a Leam Howards strike two minutes before half time to set up a final against Tuffley Rovers.

Despite the emphatic scoreline, Bicester did test their higher level opponents as Ricardo Benjamin, skipper Dan Bone and Gavin Kidd all asked questions of the Ardley defence.

Town didn't help themselves on 27 minutes when, trailing by a goal, Murray Nicholls was shown a straight red for violent conduct.

They were reduced to nine men after 72 minutes when Jason Prpa was shown a second yellow card and sent for an early shower following an off the ball challenge.

Ardley boss Paul Davis said: "We were under no illusions of how difficult this game was going to be and so it proved for the opening 20 minutes or so as Bicester gave as good as they got.

"I have watched them a few times this season and today was the best I've seen them play.

"They had a couple missing through injury and we are injury stricken at present, but for a semi-final – and especially a local derby semi-final – you pick yourselves up and have a real go, which I thought they did.

"But we handled it really well. We scored three good goals and while the game was somewhat overshadowed by the red cards I still felt we deserved the win."

The final against Tuffley Rovers – the fifth meeting between the sides this season – kicks off at 3pm on Saturday at Wantage Town's Alfredian Park.

Ford happy despite final day defeat

Banbury United

BOSS Mike Ford praised his much-changed Banbury United side, despite narrowly losing 2-1 at home to Kettering Town on Saturday.

A late winner from Poppies striker Aaron O'Connor condemned the Puritans to a final day defeat.

United's Manny Duku had cancelled out Ben Baker's early opener from a second half penalty but O'Connor pounced on a defensive error to grab the winner for the ninth-placed visitors.

Ford rotated his side by making four changes after the previous week's defeat against Leamington dashed any hopes of making the Southern Premier League play-offs.

Ford said: "I thought we were excellent. We totally dominated the game and I thought we played some great stuff.

"The two goals we gave away were comical – especially the second one – and they go away with the victory but anybody at the game today will suggest that we are probably heading in a better direction than our opposition today.

"That's how we need to play next year every single week. We lost our way in recent weeks, in terms of performance, but, if you take the goals out of it, we've won it by a mile.

"We looked really good today. It was a nice performance to finish on, although it was disappointing to lose."

The Puritans ended the season in sixth place, five points off the play-offs having conceded a mere 40 goals, the second least in the league.

United won't face Cinderford Town, Hayes & Yeading United, Cirencester Town or Cambridge City next season who all fell through the division's trap door.

Leamington, Merthyr Town, Hitchin Town and Slough Town will battle the play-offs to join Chippenham Town in English football's seventh tier next season.

Captain Luke Carnell attacks a corner Picture: E.A Barson Photography

Penalty decision rattles Kidlington

Kidlington

KIDLINGTON concluded their first season in the eighth tier of English football with a 2-1 defeat at home to Ashford Town on Saturday.

Despite sacrificing a 1-0 lead in the final 10 minutes, Julian McCalmon's side clung on to a top half finish in Division 1 Central, which after a dodgy start and a change of management, can be judged by everyone at the club as extremely successful.

With Ashford also in mid-table and nothing to play for, it was no surprise the game had an end of season feel to it.

The visitors had the better of the first half but it was fairly even with a lack of clear goalscoring opportunities.

That was until Kiddy opened the scoring with a deadly counterattack on the half hour mark.

The ball was rapidly moved upfield and, from an acute angle, Callum Harvey, who had been a menace throughout the half, struck home to put his side ahead.

The second half failed to produce much goalscoring action until the match was turned on its head in the final 10 minutes.

The Tangerines levelled the scores on 80 minutes through an Alex Fisher penalty.

Kidlington felt aggrieved and were more incensed five minutes later when Ashford completed the turnaround. Jack Beadle pounced to rifle home a rebound and to send the points back to Middlesex.

The Greens finished the season in 11th place.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Sheffield United	45	44	97
2	Bolton Wanderers	45	29	83
3	Fleetwood Town	45	21	81
4	Scunthorpe United	45	24	79
5	Bradford City	45	19	78
6	Millwall	45	8	70
7	Southend United	45	16	69
8	Rochdale	45	9	68
9	Oxford United	45	11	66
10	Bristol Rovers	45	-1	66
11	Peterborough United	45	3	62
12	MK Dons	45	-1	58
13	Walsall	45	-4	58
14	Charlton Athletic	45	4	57
15	AFC Wimbeldon	45	-3	56
16	Northampton Town	45	-13	52
17	Oldham Athletic	45	-13	52
18	Shrewsbury Town	45	-15	51
19	Bury	45	-11	50
20	Gillingham	45	-20	49
21	Port Vale	45	-25	48
22	Swindon Town	45	-19	44
23	Coventry City	45	-29	39
24	Chesterfield	45	-34	37

Leigh finish in fine form

Oxford City

NORTH Leigh completed their season in some style with a hard fought victory against promotion chasing Taunton Town on Saturday – without a goalkeeper.

The Millers have enjoyed a strong finish to their Division 1 South & West campaign and their 1-0 win at Eynsham Park rounded off a busy four and a half weeks with an eighth win in 10 matches.

Taunton, who finished fourth and hope to join Hereford's promotion party via the play-offs, took the initiative early on as Leigh started with outfield player Stuart Hole between the sticks due to the unavailability of the regular keepers.

The makeshift stopper, starting his third game in goal, put in a heroic performance to collect a second clean sheet – no mean feat given that Taunton have found the back of the net 114 times this season. Only Salisbury have scored more (118).

The home goal was bombarded in the opening 10 minutes by constant attacks by the Peacocks and, although the Somerset side were dominant throughout, the Millers remained a threat on the break.

Indeed, John Brough's side should have enjoyed a half time lead after George Seacole was felled in the area in injury time by Taunton keeper Lloyd Irish.

However, the stopper dived low to his left to deny Michael Hopkins and atone for his error moments earlier.

Both sides were more attacking in the second half as Taunton hunted maximum points to secure a third placed finish and gain home advantage in the second leg of the play-offs.

And the Peacocks certainly had the armoury to win the game with a strike partnership consisting of Matt Wright and Jordan Rogers who have notched 47 league goals between them.

But it was the hosts to make the vital breakthrough late on.

With just four minutes remaining Leigh counterattacked and, following a neat centre from Seacole, Roger James steered the ball past Irish from six yards for the winner.

Experienced Leigh seal victory over young U's

By George Welch

GOALSCORING hero Roger James bagged a brace as North Leigh beat a youthful Oxford United side 2-1 to claim the Oxfordshire Senior Cup title.

The midfielder scored in either half of the final, played at Thame United's ASM Stadium on Tuesday night, to claim the Millers' third Senior Cup win and their first since 2012.

A late goal from Aaron Heap meant a dramatic finale but United, the reigning champions, couldn't force their way to extra time.

United's Under-18 side found the going tough against their more experienced opponents, despite the west Oxfordshire side playing their fifth game in six matches with an outfield player in goal.

There was an early exchange of shots as Niall Clayton saved the first for the U's and North Leigh's stand-in keeper Stuart Hole fielded an effort at the other end.

The young U's failed to test the opposition goalie enough and paid the price on 18 minutes when James got in behind a flat back line and scored calmly to make it 1-0.

It took a great save from Clayton on the half hour mark to reach a superb strike from Jamie Cook to deny the former U's striker a goal on his final senior game before retirement.

James was a danger all night on the right wing and his pace set up a great duel with Graham Bryan for the U's.

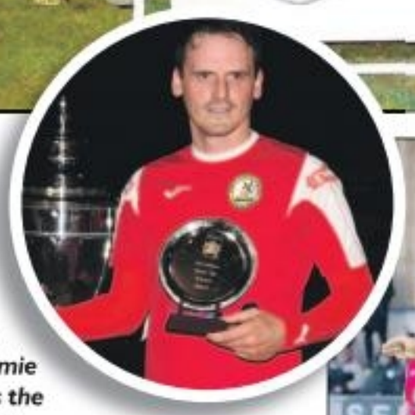
And James doubled the lead for John Brough's side 12 minutes into the second half when he rifled a half volley past the helpless Clayton from 10 yards.

Bryan went as close as anyone to reduce the deficit when his low shot was hacked off the line after 78 minutes and there was plenty of urgency in the last 10 minutes as the Millers tired.

There was late drama when James Cowan's excellent free kick smashed against the bar and was nodded home by Heap with four minutes left to set up a terrific final few minutes.

The U's laid siege to a determined red back line and tackles flew in from all angles but United's scholars had left it too late.

However, there was one U's player who did earn a winner's medal as goalkeeper Manny Agboola, who spent much of the season on loan at the Eynsham Park club but was ruled out through injury, was recognised.



North Leigh celebrate winning the cup; right, James Cowan has a shot blocked, and above, Jamie Cook recieves the winner's trophy Pictures: Steve Daniels

Railwaymen end disappointing season with a rare win in 2017

Didcot Town

IT'S not been an easy season for Didcot Town and, more accurately, 2017 has been a right old struggle.

The Railwaymen endured a torrid first three months to the calendar year, picking up just one win in 13 matches.

The winless run extended 76 days from Boxing Day to March 11 when they beat struggling Slimbridge at the Loop Meadow.

But Saturday's dominant 3-2 win at Mangotsfield United suggested that perhaps there is cause for Andy Ballard's men to be optimistic for next season as they won their fourth match in their last six fixtures.

Didcot's narrow win – their ninth at home this season – did not reflect their superiority as they wasted a number of clear goal scoring opportunities.

Instead, Town had to rely on a late Ben Whitehead winner after Mangotsfield had turned the match on its head with a two goal burst in three second half minutes.

George Jeacock, Sam Barder and George Reid all narrowly missed the target as Didcot controlled the vast majority of the game.

Whitehead did what his teammates couldn't and put Diddy ahead in the 26th minute with a low 18-yard strike that skipped beyond visiting keeper Steven Phillips.

The visitors took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second period and goalscoring opportunities arrived thick and fast, mostly falling to Reid.

The Diddy forward kept his belief and was rewarded with his side's second goal with 20 minutes remaining.

But the Mangos weren't dead and buried just yet.

Within a blink of an eye the Bristol-based side drew level with two goals in three minutes from Matt Groves (75 minutes) and Lewis Powell (78) leaving it all to play for in the final 10 minutes.

But Didcot, who finished 12th in Division 1 South & West, collected maximum points on the last day of the season after a defensive error allowed Whitehead to slot home his fifth goal in four games.

Meanwhile, Wantage Town ended their nightmare season with their 29th defeat of the campaign following a 2-0 home loss to Bishops Cleeve.

The Freds will now prepare for life in the Hellenic Premier League after they finished second bottom on 21 points, recording just four wins and shipping 110 goals.

Striker Ben Whitehead ended the season with five goals in four matches Picture: Roger Neal

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More Sport inside: Football: North Leigh win Senior Cup | Golf: Young amateur celebrates place on tour | F1: Teams look ahead to Sochi

Lions tamed at the Den

Canice Carroll celebrates with Josh Ruffels after he scored the third goal against Millwall on Saturday Pictures: Darrell Fisher

By George Welch

OXFORD United threw a spanner in the works of Millwall's promotion push with an excellent 3-0 win at the Den on Saturday.

Millwall hadn't suffered defeat on their home turf since December but the U's, with nothing to play for, weren't just there to make up the numbers.

United boss Michael Appleton said after Easter Monday's win against Port Vale that he still demands the best from his players, but questions of United coasting to the end of the season were answered emphatically.

Two early goals from Conor McAleny and a second-half header from Josh Ruffels – his second in as many games – sealed the win for the U's.

Millwall, who needed a win to keep their play-off charge going at full speed, were stunned to find themselves two goals down inside nine minutes.

Despite early pressure from the hosts, the U's took the lead after six minutes when McAleny, whose contract at Everton runs out in the summer, fired in from the edge of the box.

The winger, on loan from the Premier League side, repeated the trick three minutes later when he doubled the lead, cutting in from the left and curling into the far corner.

When Millwall's top scorer Steve Morison did get a sight of goal, Simon Eastwood was swiftly off his line to block his shot on the hour.

His opposite number Jordan Archer had a busier shift and needed to make just as good a save moments later when Marvin Johnson let fly.

And the home keeper was picking the ball out of his net for a third time on 70 minutes when Ruffels headed in at the far post from a Chris Maguire corner to end the game as a contest.

Lions tamed, it was another impressive away day for the Yellows, who won nine of their 23 away games.

They have picked up 32 points on their travels, just two short of their record at the Kassam with a game to go.

Millwall continue to cling to the last play-off place one point above seventh-placed Southend ahead of Sunday's showdown.

Meanwhile, United host Shrewsbury Town, who are almost safe from relegation to League Two.

One team that failed to escape the drop, however, were rivals Swindon Town whose relegation was confirmed after a 2-1 defeat to Scunthorpe United at the County Ground on Saturday.

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